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THE GREAT BANYAN TREE IN HOWRAH

A man sits under the shade of the Great Banyan Tree at Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden, in Howrah, West Bengal. Estimated to be over 250 years old, the tree is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for its vast forest-like canopy, spanning 3.5 acres with more than 3,600 aerial roots. It continues to survive without its main trunk, which was removed in 1925 due to decay | PTI

LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath

बीमित भारत, सुरक्षित भारत
LIC
Har Pal Aapke Saath
69th Anniversary
INSURED INDIA, SECURED INDIA

Trusted Present, Secured Future

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Associates: LIC HFL LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD; LIC MUTUAL FUND; LICHFL Asset Management Company Limited

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This pictorial representation of Map of India does not purport to be the political map of India. Map not to scale. For representation only.

LIC / P1 / 2025 - 26 / 16 / Eng

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client is the Developer of land measuring 17 Guntas formed in survey numbers 27/1 situated at Arenur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore (the Property). It is further informed that my client has lost/misplaced the below mentioned original document pertaining to the above-mentioned property. My client has lodged the police complaint in the concerned police station. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title and interest over the above mentioned Property or below mentioned original document may intimate the same in writing to the under signed within 10 days from the date of this publication, failing which it will be presumed that below mentioned original documents are lost and my client and its successors are free to deal with the above property as if no valid claims are subsisting and if any person/s holding the below mentioned documents may kindly contact the

1.	30.10.2007	Original Sale Deed, for Sy.No.27/1 (Old Sy No. 27) – Arenur Village.	Doc.No. 3195/2007-08
2.	26.07.2006	Original GPA executed by Subbaraya Reddy & Komala in favor of A.N.Srinivas Reddy	

Place: Bangalore
Date: 01.09.2025

Sd/-
Gana M T, Advocate
No.305, Pariwar Passion Apartment 5th Cross, 5th Main, Noble Residency Road, Doddakammnahalli, Bangalore-560076

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, DIVISION BENCH, CHENNAI

COMPANY SCHEME PETITION NO. CP(CAA)/43(CHE)2025
CONNECTED WITH
COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION NO. CA(CAA)/16(CHE)2025
read with
Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Compromise, Arrangements and Amalgamation), Rules, 2016
And
In the matter of Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation
Between
Cura Healthcare Private Limited (Demerged Company)
And
Adonis Medical Systems Private Limited
(Resulting/Transferee/Amalgamated Company)
And
3I Medical Technologies Private Limited (Transferor/Amalgamating Company)
And
Their respective shareholders and creditors

CURA HEALTHCARE PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U51397TN2001PTC047385
Plot No. A-32 Phase 1, MEPZ-SEZ, Tambaram, Kadapperi, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600045
...Petitioner Company -1 / Demerged Company

ADONIS MEDICAL SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U51397TN1998PTC121627
Refex Towers, 2nd floor, 313, Valluvar Kottam High Road, Sterling Road Signal, Nungambakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600034
...Petitioner Company -2 / Resulting Company/ Transferee Company/ Amalgamated Company

3I MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U33110TN2020PTC139683
Refex Towers, 2nd floor, 313, Valluvar Kottam High Road, Sterling Road Signal, Nungambakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600034
...Petitioner Company -3 / Transferor Company/ Amalgamating Company

NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE PETITION

A Joint Petition under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, dated June 20, 2025, seeking an order for sanctioning the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation proposed between Cura Healthcare Private Limited (Petitioner Company -1 / Demerged Company) and Adonis Medical Systems Private Limited (Petitioner Company -2 / Resulting / Transferee Company/ Amalgamated Company) and 3I Medical Technologies Private Limited (Petitioner Company -3 / Transferor Company / Amalgamating Company) and their respective Shareholders and Creditors ("Scheme") was presented by the Petitioner Companies. By an order dated August 19, 2025, the said Joint Petition was admitted and has been fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai Bench on **October 01, 2025**, for considering the approval of the Scheme as sought for.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Joint Petition should send to the Companies' Advocate at the address mentioned below, notice of his/her intention, signed by him/her or his/her Advocate along with the appropriate authorization, with his/her name and address, so as to reach the Companies' Advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for hearing of the Petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the said Joint Petition, the grounds of opposition along with a copy of his/her affidavit shall be furnished with such notice.

A copy of the Joint Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

Sd/-
Mr. Pawan Jhabakh,
Counsel for the Petitioner Companies
New No. 115, First Floor, Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai – 600004.

Dated: 01 September 2025
Place: Chennai

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋ.ಇ, ಉಡುಪಿ ವಿಭಾಗ – ಉಡುಪಿ – 576101,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ & ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : (08 20) 2531802

ನಂ:ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ: ಯುಡಿಎನ್ ಎನ್ಐಟಿ:13:2025–26:ಎಇ–2
ದಿ: 30.08.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ, 3054 – ರಾಜ್ಯಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯ ರೂ. 6.00 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ 75.00 ಲಕ್ಷಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತದ 95 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ 'ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ "https:karnataka.gov.in" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ಫರನ್ಸಿ ಇನ್ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2023ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರೂಪಿತ ಶರ್ತಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ಸಹಿ/–

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಉಡುಪಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ನಂ. 55, ರಿಸಲ್ದಾರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 020.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 23460085, 23468949, 23462436, 23563506
E-mail:ksdb.ho@gmail.com, kscb_blr@rediffmail.com, Website:http://karnataka.gov.in/ksdb

No.KSDB/EE/No.1.div/S.T/PB/IFT-06/2025-26/413 Dated:-28.08.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನಂ.1ನೇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ Construction of Road and Drain at Pragatipura, Sarandepalya, Kaaverinagara, Ambedkarnagara Slums in Padmanabhanagara Constiteuncy Bengaluru City. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ KW-3 ನಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.100ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.84.66ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ). ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 1,69,500.00/–ರೂಗಳು ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಿ–ಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.09.2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ /ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಂ.1ನೇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಕೊಅಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಹಿ/–

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಕ.ಕೊ.ಅ.ಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಸಿಪಿ/2555/ಸಿಸಿಎಲ್/2025–26

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL , HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken PHYSICAL POSSESSION (S) in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on Date of auction, as per the brief particulars given here under.

Name of Borrower/s : MR. VIGNESH S and Mrs. GIRIDHAR RAO ANITHA
Loan No – 411600003957

All that the piece and parcel of the property bearing New Municipal No. 7, Old No. 190/7, situated at 19th C Main Road, 1st N Block, Rajajinagara, Bangalore – 560010, PID No..14-17-7, NEW BBMP Ward No.7, measuring East to West 9.40 meters and South to North 15.31 + 15.10 / 2 meters and building of Ground, first and Second Floors and Bounded on: North by :Property No. 190/B South by :1property No. 190/A East by :Road West by :Property No. 219 and 191.

Date of Demand Notice & Amt Demanded	21/11/2022 & Rs.3,29,56,126.00 with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.
Date of Possession	Symbolic possession 02/07/2024
Account Details	Beneficiary Name: LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD COLLECTION AC Bengaluru Beneficiary Branch Name: Kasturba Gandhi Marg - Bengaluru, Karnataka Account Number: LHFBA2411600003957, IFSC Code: HDFC0000009
Reserve Price	Rs.4,30,00,000/- (RUPEES FOUR CRORE THIRTY LAKHS Only)
EMD	Rs. 43,00,000 /- (RUPEES FORTY THREE LAKHS ONLY)
Total Amount payable as on date	Rs. 46,648,583.00(Four Sixty-six lakhs Forty-eight thousand five hundred eighty-three rupees Only)
Website of E-Auction	https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ & https://www.auctionbazaar.com/
Date & time of Inspection of Photocopies of property documents	15th September 2025 & 10:30AM to 3:00PM
Address where property documents can be inspected	BACK OFFICE, 1st FLOOR, JEEVAN MANGAL BUILDING, HAYES ROAD, BENGALURU -560025 KARNATAKA.
Inspection of the Property Date for inspection and time	16th September 2025 & 10:30AM to 1:00PM
Contact person	Mr. Mr. A S R Phanindra, Associate Chief Manager, Mob No. 8008177199
Contact details of E-Auction from the service provider	Mr. Uthappa K K, Mob No.: 7799510999, email id: - contact@auctionbazaar.com
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	17th September 2025 till 3.00 PM
E Auction Date & Time	18th September 2025 & 11 AM to 3.00 PM

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below:

1. E-Auction Sale is being held on 'As is where is Basis is' and 'As is what is Basis', 'whatever there is Basis' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis' and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider – **https://www.auctionbazaar.com/ 2.** To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labour Dues, electricity, and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the Reserve Price. LICHFL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above.**3.** The intending bidders should register their names at portal "website of E-auction service provider" as mentioned in the auction sale notice (as published in newspaper advertisement). **4.** The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders. **5.** Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LICHFL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider. **6.** The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above. **7.** If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount. **8.** The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted "online" through the portal e.g., "www.auctionbazaar.com" along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per other details of Auction above. Authorised Officer is not bound to accept highest offer made by the bidder if not acceptable to the secured creditor. **9.** Every Bidder shall deposit EMD before participating in E-Auction. The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest.**10.** Initial Bidding increment is Rs. 25000/-. However, Authorised Officer will state bidding increment amount percentage for each property if, decided otherwise. **11.** The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, within 24 hours of bid acceptance by the Authorized officer/next working day before close of cash hours, in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale unless decided otherwise by Authorised Officer in writing, the maximum period allowed is 90 days, beyond which time-period cannot be extended. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder. **12.** The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name. **13.** The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire sale price. **14.** The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale. **15.** Inspection of the photocopies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on the dates stated in the advertisement. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of E-Auction mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to Inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders.
16. The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice. **17.** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Place: Bangalore Date : 01.09.2025

Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Bangalore

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project)
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore - 560 09

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

BWSSB invities Expression of Interest from qualified agencies to support the Board in obtaining ISO 50001 certification for key Water Pumping Stations located at T.K.Halli, Harohalli, Tataguni, and the BWSSB Head Office.

EOI work will be available on the website from: **01.09.2025.** The last date for proposal of EoI: **10.09.2025 upto 16:00.** The details regarding the EoI and participation in the the process can be obtained by logging on to **bwssb.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact undersigned office during the working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Project)

DIPR/CP/2564/SA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:SEE/Tr(Op)Circle-N/AEE(C)/JE-(C)/F-/2025-26/1381-85 Date:29.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites Tender for 03 numbers of Civil Engineering Works (R&M to Plant & Machinery Works) coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer (Ele), Trans.(Op), Circle-North, KPTCL, U.A.S. Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru. The Tender will be received through "KPP-Portal" mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPP-Portal process can obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or directly logging on to website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 02.09.2025.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elecl.),
Transmission (Operations) Circle-North, KPTCL,
UAS Campus, Hebbala, Bengaluru-560 024.

KOLAR DIST., CO–OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LTD., KOLAR

Kolar Dairy, N.H – 75, Huthur Post, KOLAR – 563102.
PHONE NO.7019559381/7760964551 FAX NO. 282303 E-mail:uhtindents@gmail.com

NO. KOMUL/Mktg/T-TENDER/2622/ 2025–26 Date: 29.08.2025

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Kolar Milk Union Ltd., Kolar, invites Tender for the following Transportation Route on Annual Rate Contract Basis for the following.

Sl. No.	Tender Name	Details	Capacity of the Vehicle
1	UHT Milk Transportation for Defence Units	Tenders are invited from Registered Transport Companies for Transportation of UHT Milk from Kolar dairy to Northern command	25 MT

units of Jammu & Kashmir State, Union Territory of J&K and Leh, Ladakh Territory Regions , Eastern Command units of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam Rifles Unit at Dimapur The Approximate quantity to be supplied for the year is given below:

Command Name	Sl. No.	Station Name	Approx. Quantity	Security Deposit
Northern Command	1	Naugam	3.00 Lakh ltrs	5 Lakh
	2	Baramulla	2.00 Lakh ltrs	5 Lakh
	3	Gulmarg	2.00 Lakh ltrs	5 Lakh
	4	Trehgam	3.79 Lakh ltrs	5 Lakh
Eastern Command	5	Bararupak	2.97 Lakh ltrs	5 Lakh
	6	Orak	3.35 Lakh ltrs	5 Lakh
Assam Rifles	7	Dimapur	3.71 Lakhs ltrs	5 Lakh

The Contractor can have access to the E-tender Documents through the following website **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in./** and to access the station an EMD amount of **Rs.35000/-** paid in favour of e-Procurement government of Karnataka.

The Calendar of events is given below.

(1) Access to E-tender Documents: **01.09.2025 to 15.09.2025. (2)** Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications : **12.09.2025. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **15.09.2025 upto 5:00 pm. (4)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **17.09.2025 at 11:00 am. (5)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **22.09.2025 at 11:00 am. (6)** Place of Opening of Technical and Financial Bid: **Kolar Milk Union Ltd., Head Office, Kolar.**

The Details such as EMD, Cost of Tender forms, Terms and conditions of the tender can be obtained through the website **https: //kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** and the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Managing Director
Kolar Milk Union Ltd.,

Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale of Immovable Properties

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015. (Haryana) and **Branch Office at:- Soma Merit, No.9,Ground Floor Venkataswamy Naidu Street,Taskar Town,Shivajinagar,Bangalore-560001** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iiflonehome.com

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
Mr. Kaladhar K Mrs. Jaya Sudha Karanam (Prospect No 798523)	**11/12/2018, Rs.2585660** (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Only) **Bid Increase Amount Rs.40000 /-** (Rupees Forty Thousand Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: Flat No.108 measuring 1212 Sq feet Super built-up area, Ground Floor situated on Sy. No. 108/01, including One Car Parking Space, Royal Sunrise, Kammasandra Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka	**23/01/2025** **Total Outstanding as On Date 29/08/2025 Rs. 4107718/ -** (Rupees Rupees Forty One Lakh Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighteen Only Only)	**Rs.4050000/-** (Rupees Forty Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.405000/-** (Rupees Four Lakh Five Thousand Only)

Date of Inspection of property	EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E-Auction
15/09/2025 1100 hrs -1400 hrs.	17/09/2025 till 5 pm.	19/09/2025 1100 hrs-1300 hrs.

Mode of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have tovisit https://www.iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.
Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction.**For Balance Payment - Login https://www.iiflonehome.com >My Bid >Pay Balance Amount.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider **https://www. iiflonehome.com** well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS application to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IIFL HFL.
6. **Bidders are advised to go through the website https: //www.iiflonehome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.**
7. **For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:-care@iiflonehome.com, Support Helpline Numbers:@1800 2672 499.**
8. **For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- care@iiflonehome.com**
9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
10. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
11. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
12. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE RULE 9 SUB RULE (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place:- Bengaluru Date: 01-Sep-2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.**

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Back Office, 1st Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal, Hayes Road, Residency Rd, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560025

Public Notice

This notice is hereby given to the general public that the Sale Notice issued in the account of Vignesh S bearing Loan Account No. 411600004021 under SARFAESI Act 2002 dated 27.08.2025 stands withdrawn at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 01.09.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Bangalore

LOST OF DOCUMENT

I, Gopala D. R/at Mylanahalli Village, B K Halli Post, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore-562149 have lost Sale Deeds of My Property along with other documents 28/08/2025 Sale Deed No. 1550/1991-92 dated 28.12.1991 from Majan Bhi W/o. Shek Fukruddin to Dodda Chinnaswamappa S/o. late Annayappa Kakala Chinthe Sy No. 136/4, when travelling from my native to Bangalore in bus. Police Complaint No. 1774823/2025 Date: 29.08.2025. If anyone found above document, please inform nearby Police Station or Contact: 7975312779. Email: Shivuloki07@gmail.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my clients **SMT. RAMYA VOBILINI**, aged about 43 years, W/o Satya Narayana Vobilini and MR. SATYA NARAYANA VOBILINI, aged about 49 years S/o Laxmi Narayana V, both are residing at No.54-108, 4th Floor Sai Nilayam, 4th Cross Lower B Sector Amruth nagar, Bangalore-560092 are the absolute owners of the schedule property acquired through registered absolute sale deed bearing No.GNR-1-06854-2023-2024, Book I, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Gandhinagar (Ganganagara) Bangalore. The original mother deed of the schedule property executed by B R Sainath duly represented by his General Power of Attorney HolderB K Gopala Setty, No.7, R K Puram, 5 'C' Road Cross, Bangalore-560009 in favour of Smt. D Veenamba W/o K V Dayananda Saraswathi, No.71, ChandrakaNilaya, Lakshmi Devamma Block, Gangangar, Bangalore-560032 on 30/04/1993 and registered on 27/05/1993 as Reg. No. 718/1993-94, of Book No.1, Pages 146-149, Volume 378 before the Sub Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore is lost between 01/12/2023 to 01/04/2025 before the Sub Registrar Office, Gangangar, Bangalore for which my client has filed the complaint before the Karnataka State Police on 30/08/2025 vide lost report No. 1776715/2025, all the efforts made by our client to track out the same proved futile. That if any person/s found the same, please inform and surrender the above document to the undersigned and if any person/s or establishment is having any objections, claims shall be informed to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of publication.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of residential property baring Site No.105, House List Khatha No. 361/105, situated at Amruthahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, presently within the limits of BBMP Municipal No.105, Khatha No. 539/105, Amruthahalli, BBMP Ward No.7, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet, totally 1200 Sq.ft, bounded on: **East by: Road, West by: Property No.106, North by: Property No.89 and South by: Road.**

Meer Hassan
Advocate & Notary Public Govt. of India
#96, 11th Cross, Somesgwara Nagar, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore-560011.
Place: Bengaluru Date: 01/09/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to the information of the General Public that my client **JAGADISHA.A, S/o Yadava,** R/a No.109/A, "Classic Amrutha" Bynapalya, Vajarahalli, Doddakalasandra, Bangalore South,Bangalore-560062, has entered into an agreement of sale to purchase of Schedule property from its owner **K.PARVATHI, Wife of Mahesh,** R/a No. 42/8, K.P.Main Road, Venkat Reddy Layout, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560062. If anybody having any right, share, claim or objection to the proposed purchase may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents, within **10 days** from the date of this publication to the purchaser's advocate at below mentioned address, failing which my clients will be advised to go ahead and complete the formalities for registration of the sale deed in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of the Residential Property bearing **No.7** and Western Portion of the Residential Property bearing **No. 8,** Khatha No.42, situated at **Doddalakasandra, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** Now the BBMP, assigned with Property New EPID No. 1299422228, Property No 42/7, 8 and Ward No. 197 of Vasanthapura, & bounded on the:
East by : Remaining portion of site No.8, West by : Remaining portion of site No.7, North by : Road, South by : Property belonging to Krishna Reddy.
MEASURING:
EAST TO WEST : 25 FEET,
NORTH TO SOUTH : 42 FEET,
ADMEASURING : 1050 SQUARE FEET.
Consisting of 6 Squares of RCC roofed residential building in the Ground Floor, and 6 Squares of RCC roofed residential building in the First Floor, house, having all civic amenities.

R.R.Upadhya, Advocate
RAVISHANKAR ASSOCIATES,
#92, 2nd Main Road, Between 7th & 8th Cross, Chamrajpet, Bangalore -18 Mob: 9241102941

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Sri. SALLAUDDIN.A** Aged about 34 years, S/o Mr. Athim Basha,R/at No.171,4th Main, 8th Cross, RHCS Layout, Annapurneshwari Nagar,Near Nupura Fine Arts Academy, Viswaneendam Post, Bangalore-560091.. intend to purchase the sites mentioned below from its owner **Smt.M.AKSHATHA**, Aged about35 years, D/o Sri.C.Muniraju. Residing at No. 149,5th Block, Vishveshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore – 560 091 ,Anyone claiming to have any right, title or interest in the below mentioned schedule sites shall forward his/her objections to the undersigned, along with supporting documents within 08days from to-day failing which we will proceed to complete the sale formalities.

Schedule

All the piece and parcel of the immovableconstructed house on Site Propertybearing Site No.165, Khatha P I D No. 4312050023, comes under BBMP Ward No. situated at Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 5th Block, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West : 40 feet, Or12 Mtrs and North to South : 30 feet Or 09 Mrs, in all measuring Totally 1200 Sq.Feet Or 108 Sq.Mtrs, feet,, together with R.C.C. Roofed residential building measuring 4000 Squares Feet constructed thereon, consist of **3 Floor Building , Ground Floor, 1st Floor, and 2nd Floor, and 3rd floor** walls constructed with cement and blocks, sellr has handover the property as it is work done at this time with all civic amenities like Cavery water and Own Bore well Provided, electricity and sanitary connections which is our self acquired property and bounded on :

East by	:	**Road**
West by	:	**Site No148**
North by	:	**Site No166**
South by	:	**Site No.164**

Prakash T.S. Advocate
Pannaga Law Associates
No 213/A,10th Main,56th Cross,4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560010.
Mob -9620376979.

IN THE COURT OF THE XVI CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-12) BENGALURU
O.S. No. 4079 OF 2023

PLAINTIFF: Sri Ananda Raj K, S/o. late T. Krishnappa, aged about 68 years, No.5, 1st Main, 2nd A Cross, Swathanthra Nagar, Basavanapura, K.R. Pura, Bengaluru-560 049
-V/s-
DEFENDANT: Sri Chandrashekar K & others

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO.6 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (i-a) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

To, **6) Sri S. Srikanth**, aged about 36 years, S/o. late Subhash Chandra Bose & late K. Renukadevi, No.408, 1st Cross, Neelakanteshwara Layout, Mangammanapalya, Bommanahalli Post, Bengaluru-560 068

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed the above suit against the Defendants for the relief of partition separate possession, declaration declaring that the sale agreement, cancellation of sale agreement and the sale deed are not binding on his share, and permanent injunction and for any such other reliefs in respect of the suit schedule property. You are hereby summoned to appear before the court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the **27/09/2025** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the same, failing which the above suit will be disposed off ex-parte in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of northern portion of the property bearing No.18, new No.21, situated at Alaraju Muniswamappa Lane, Thigalarapet, Bengaluru - 560 002, measuring East to West 14.9 feet and North to South 15.6 feet having PID No. 47-37-21 together with building thereon and the same is bounded on the: **East by:** property of Chinnathayamma, **West by:** Alaraju Muniswamappa Lane, **North by :** Private Property, **South by :** Remaining property of vendor No.1

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 22/08/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

P.K. MALAKI, Advocate
No.12, 12th Cross, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-560 027

IN THE COURT OF XVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH 10)

Execution Case No. 1864/2015

Between :
Karnataka State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (Formerly Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation Limited) ...Decree Holder
And
M/s Zion Infrastructure Company Limited and others. ...Judgment Debtors

NOTICE TO THE JUDGMENT DEBTOR No. 6

1. Smt. Manjula,
W/o. Late Subramani,
No.391/75, 65th Cross,
5th Block, Rajajinagar,
Bangalore.

NOTICE TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR No. 6

Whereas, the Judgment Debtor No.6 have failed to satisfy a decree passed against the Judgment Debtor No.6 in Mis. No.132/2010 dated 28.11.2012 for recovery an amount of **Rs.1,11,75,041** (One Crore Eleven Lakh Seventy Five Thousand forty one only) as on **10.08.2015** and further interest at 18% (Eighteen percent) per annum compounded quarterly till the date of realization thereon. By Order dated 13.06.2024 this Hon'ble Court was pleased to pass the Order restraining the Judgment Debtor No.6 from transferring and creating charge over the Schedule Property mentioned herewith. Further that this Hon'ble Court was directed the Decree Holder to take substitute service by way of paper publication and proclamation of attached property as per Order 21 Rule 54 (2) of CPC. It is also ordered that Judgment Debtor No.6 should attend Court on the **13th October day of 2025** to take notice of the date fixed for settling the terms of the proclamation of sale.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing No391/75, situated at 65th Cross, Rajajinagar, 5h Block, Bangalore. Meauring East to West: 35 feet North to South: 40 feet together with all building standing thereon and to be constructed/erected thereon and bounded on the: East by: Property Bearing No.392, West by: Property Bearing No.390, North by: Property Bearing No.468, South by: Road.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this **28th August day of 2025.**

By Order of the Court
Sd/-
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Advocate For Decree Holder
Venkatesh S. Arbatti
Advocate
VHVK LAW PARTNERS
Advocates & Solicitors
3 &4, Lakeside Residency.
No.4, Annaswamymudaliar Road,
Bangalore-560042.

DIPR/C.P/2552/Shirdi Sai/ 2025-26

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SEPT TO WITNESS RECORD RAINFALL, FLASH FLOODS & LANDSLIDES: IMD

The India Meteorological Department said the monthly average rainfall in September will be more than 109% of the long-period average of 167.9 mm

ALERT FOR UTTARAKHAND, HARYANA, DELHI, RAJ

Addressing a virtual press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said heavy rainfall may trigger landslides and flash floods in Uttarakhand and disrupt normal life in south Haryana, Delhi, and north Rajasthan. "Many rivers originate in Uttarakhand. So, heavy rainfall means rivers will be flooded and it will impact towns downstream," he said

MONSOON WITHDRAWAL TO BE DELAYED

- IMD has also forecast late withdrawal of the monsoon, which usually begins in September first week and is complete by month-end. This year, IMD predicts the monsoon could extend well into October
- India recorded above-normal rainfall in June (8.9%), July (4.8%), and August (5.2%), according to data released by the weather department

268.1 MM

RAINFALL RECORDED IN INDIA IN AUGUST 2025, THE SEVENTH HIGHEST SINCE 2001

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Strategic autonomy guides ties, PM tells Xi, seeks mutual trust amid global turmoil

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

AIMING for long-term stability in India-China relations amid disrupted global trade and shifting geopolitical alignments triggered by US tariffs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday noted with President Xi Jinping that the two countries must pursue strategic autonomy and their ties should not be viewed through the lens of a third country.

"Our cooperation impacts 2.8 billion people and holds global significance," Modi said, underlining that relations must be grounded in "mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity."

"Prime Minister noted that India and China both pursue strategic autonomy, and their relations should not be seen through a third country lens. The two leaders deemed it necessary to expand common ground on bilateral, regional, and global issues and challenges, like terrorism and fair trade in multilateral platforms," the External Affairs Ministry said.

Modi pointed to a "positive direction" in ties since their October 2024 meeting, which led to a new border management agreement. "We are committed to advancing our relationship with mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity at its core."

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, came days after the United States imposed 50% tariffs on key Indian goods, citing New Delhi's energy trade with Russia. The bilateral talks signalled both countries' intent to recalibrate ties on their own terms — without being influenced by Western economic pressure.

President Xi Jinping echoed this sentiment in his opening remarks: "The dragon and the elephant must come together. The world is undergoing transformation. It is vital for China and India to be friends, good neighbours, and work together as part of the Global South."

On trade and investment, both leaders recognised their economies' potential to anchor global trade stability amid rising protectionism and supply chain disruptions. They agreed to expand trade and investment, reduce India's trade deficit, and enhance transparency and predictability in cross-border commerce.

Modi also reiterated that India and China are "partners, not rivals", and that their differences should not become disputes. He emphasised the importance of border peace, referencing successful disengagement and the recent consensus between Special Representatives to resolve the boundary issue "fairly and reasonably".

A key outcome of the talks was an agreement to strengthen people-to-people ties, including the expansion of direct flights and visa facilitation, building on the resumption of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.

Modi also invited Xi to attend the 2026 BRICS Summit in India, which Xi welcomed, offering Beijing's support for India's BRICS presidency.

Later, in a separate meeting with Politburo Standing Committee member Cai Qi, Modi shared his vision for bilateral ties. Cai reaffirmed China's commitment to expanding exchanges in line with the consensus reached by the two leaders. Cai, an important leader in the Chinese Communist Party, was to host a dinner in honour of the Prime Minister on behalf of President Xi as a special gesture, but due to the paucity of time they met for a discussion.

> *Our cooperation is linked to the interests of 2.8 billion people of our two countries. This will also pave the way for the welfare of all humanity*
>
> Narendra Modi, prime minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin, China, on Sunday | PTI

Modi, Putin bilateral meet today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks with Russian President Vladmir Putin on Monday on the sidelines of the SCO summit. The prime minister will also address the summit on Monday

INSIDE ▸▸ PM MODI TAKES UP CROSS-BORDER TERROR, TRADE DEFICIT WITH XI | P9 | MODI HOLDS TALKS WITH MYANMAR'S SENIOR GENERAL MIN AUNG HLAING | P9 | DISCRIMINATORY SANCTIONS AGAINST BRICS NOT ACCEPTABLE, SAYS PUTIN | P11

EXPRESS READ

Remarks on Sikhs: Rahul moves HC

PRAYAGRAJ: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has approached the Allahabad High Court against an order of a special MP-MLA court of Varanasi that had directed a subordinate court to hear afresh an application seeking registration of an FIR against him for his statement on Sikhs made during a visit to the US in 2024.

India looks at sealing two submarine deals

NEW DELHI: India is likely to seal two mega submarine deals worth over Rs 1 lakh crore by the middle of next year, sources said on Sunday. The first project involves the procurement of three Scorpene submarines, which will be jointly constructed by state-run Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) and French defence major Naval Group.

TRIBALS...

...TO BE KEPT OUT OF AMBIT OF PROPOSED UCC

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the idea is to ensure that tribals can live their lives "freely" as per their systems.

Raped by minor bro, 14-yr-old delivers baby

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

CLOSE on the heels of a ninth-standard girl delivering a baby in Yadgir district recently, another shocking incident has been reported in Shivamogga taluk. A 14-year-old girl, allegedly raped by her own minor brother, gave birth to a baby boy at her house on Friday. The girl is the third child in a family with three daughters and a son, all of whom reportedly have mental conditions.

Child Welfare Committee (CWC) sources said that a police complaint has been filed against the minor brother, who is 17 years old, under the POCSO Act. Both the minor girl and the baby, who weighs 1.8 kg, have been admitted to a government hospital in the city and are reported to be stable.

CWC Chairman Tajuddin Khan told *TNIE* that the girl delivered the premature baby after seven months of pregnancy. "The girl delivered the baby with the help of her mother in the toilet. She was taken to the government hospital the same night. She initially gave contradictory statements when counsellors questioned her," he said. P5

Std 7 girl pregnant, Std 8 boy booked

BAGALKOT: A Class 7 student of Morarji Desai Residential School at Kandagal village in Ilkal taluk of Bagalkot district is found to be two months pregnant. Following a complaint filed by her parents, the Ilkal Rural police have registered a POCSO case against a Class 8 student from the same school and hailing from Badnur village in Mudhol taluk.

FULL REPORT P5

GP president married to minor absconding

BELAGAVI: A police complaint has been filed against the president of Bassapur Gram Panchayat in Hukkeri taluk, Belagavi district, for allegedly marrying a 15-year-old girl. Though Bheemashi Kalimani's marriage took place in November 2023, it came to light recently. It is reported that the minor girl delivered a few months ago. Kalimani is yet to be arrested.

FULL REPORT P5

SIR CONTROVERSY

Bihar voters to get new ID cards after roll revision: ECI

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) plans to issue new voter identity cards to all electors in Bihar after the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is complete, officials said. However, the poll panel is yet to firm up the timeframe for the issuance of the new cards, they added.

When the electors were given enumeration forms, they were asked to submit their latest photographs as well. Officials said the new voter ID cards will have these photos.

According to Bihar's draft electoral roll published on August 1, the state has 7.24 crore electors. The final voters list will be published on September 30.

Assembly elections in the state are likely to be held in October or early November. The term of the present assembly ends on November 22 and the elections must be completed before that date.

According to the ECI, 99% of those who filled up enumeration forms have submitted their documents.

As many as 33,326 people have filed pleas for inclusion in the voters list as their names were missing from the draft rolls and 2,07,565 applications have been filed for exclusion from the draft rolls.

Among these, the main opposition in the state assembly RJD has submitted 10 requests for inclusion in the draft list, whereas CPI (ML) Liberation has submitted 15 such requests for inclusion and 103 for exclusion. The other 10 registered parties have not submitted any request either for inclusion or exclusion.

Separately, Bihar has become the first state where the number of electors per polling stations has been reduced from 1,500 to a maximum of 1,200 as part of rationalisation exercise to ensure lesser crowding of polling stations on voting day.

Due to rationalisation, the number of polling stations in the state has gone up from 77,000 to 90,000. The rationalisation exercise will eventually be carried out pan India, officials in the poll panel said.

2L pleas for removal

ECI has received 2 lakh pleas for removing their names from electoral rolls and 33,000 to include their names in the voter list

C P Radhakrishnan

B Sudershan Reddy

PM to host NDA dinner on the eve of V-P elections

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is expected to host a dinner for National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MPs on the eve of the September 9 vice-presidential elections.

The ruling NDA has the numbers to get its candidate, Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan, elected. But since members of the electoral college can vote according to their choice and are not bound by any party whip, the dinner meeting on September 8 could have a subtle message for allies to follow "alliance dharma", remarked a senior BJP MP.

The meeting would also give allies an opportunity to interact with the PM while helping avoid cross-voting.

In what has been billed as a South vs South fight, the Opposition has pitted former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy, who hails from Telangana, against Radhakrishnan, who is from Tamil Nadu. Both are actively campaigning to ensure all their respective votes are polled.

All members of both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members are part of the electoral college. Voting is by secret ballot through the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The winner has to secure at least one more than 50% of the valid votes cast.

While the electoral college has 782 members, the winning candidate needs at least 392 votes to sail through. The NDA has 426 MPs in Parliament.

Cab driver sets former live-in partner on fire

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

A 50-year-old cab driver was arrested by Hulimavu police after he allegedly poured petrol on his former live-in partner and set her ablaze in full public view on Hommadevanahalli Main Road near Bannerghatta on Saturday afternoon.

The woman sustained 60% burns and is being treated at a hospital. Her condition is said to be critical.

The accused, Vittal (50), is a resident of Malenallasandra in Bannerghatta, while the victim, Vanajakshi (25), is a homemaker and a resident of Bilvaradahalli in Bannerghatta.

The police said that around 1 pm on Saturday, Vanajakshi, her present live-in partner Muniyappa (49) and an elderly relative were heading towards St John's Hospital in a car to visit a family member. Vittal followed them and kept honking. When Muniyappa stopped the vehicle, Vittal got down from his taxi carrying petrol in a can and splashed it on the car. As Muniyappa and Vanajakshi stepped out of the car and started running, sensing danger, Vittal chased Vanajakshi. CONTINUED ON P5

Green credits to be tied to tree survival

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Union environment ministry has revised the rules to calculate and award 'green credits' for tree plantation on degraded forest land. Under the new system, green credits will be awarded only after five years of restoration work and once the land achieves 40% canopy density.

Earlier, these credits were awarded after two years of plantation subject to certain conditions. "On completion of minimum five years of restoration activities in the degraded forest land parcel, and after achieving a minimum canopy density of forty per cent (40% canopy density), the applicant shall be eligible to submit a claim report for award of Green Credit," the rules said.

The credits are rewarded under the Green Credit Programme, first notified in February 2024. The latest notification states that "Green Credit will be calculated based on the vegetation status, including changes in canopy density and the number of surviving trees." Each new tree that has survived beyond five years will get one credit. However, experts caution that the Green Credit Programme may fall short of meeting its objectives as the rules do not include provisions for tree plantation on non-forest lands.

"The revised notification still indicates that degraded forest land with the government will be used for plantation. This means that forest land will be allocated for plantation instead of non-forest land as Compensatory Afforestation compliance, which raises the risk of double counting forest land which will lead to shrinkage of forest land while giving the impression of increase in forests," said a retired forest officer.

Also, the new rules are silent on what happens to the issued green credit if the plantation fails after five years. Experts point out that how green credits are calculated based on the difference of canopy cover and the number of trees accrued, is deliberately kept vague to allow manipulation to benefit user agencies trying to obtain forest clearances.

Techie dies after juvenile Russell's viper in slipper bites him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 41-year-old software professional died after he was bitten in the toe by a Russell's viper that was hiding inside his clog slipper. The baby snake too died of suffocation as the techie walked wearing the slipper for nearly 30 minutes without sensing any sting from the snake bite. The incident occurred at Bannerghatta on the outskirts of the city on Friday.

The deceased, Manju Prakash, was a resident of Ranganatha Layout in Bannerghatta.

Manju's younger brother Harish told reporters that around 12.45 pm on Friday, his brother went out to buy sugarcane juice wearing the slipper and returned a few minutes later. He then went off to sleep. Nearly an hour later, a worker noticed the baby snake inside the slipper and alerted the family.

Manju Prakash and the Russell's viper

"My father checked and found the snake dead. We realised that my brother had worn the slipper earlier. When we checked in his room, we found him unconscious and frothing from the mouth. He also had blood in his nose. We rushed him to a hospital, but doctors declared him brought dead," he said.

Asked why Manju did not feel any sensation of the snake bite, Harish said his brother had undergone a surgery after a bus accident in 2016 and that had left him without sensation in the leg.

The Bannerghatta police registered an unnatural death case.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

04 BENGALURU | MONDAY 01.09.2025 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY

- **Monday:** 01.09.2025
- **Year:** Vishwavasu
- **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
- **Ritu:** Varsha
- **Masa:** Bhadrapada
- **Paksha:** Sukla
- **Tithi:** Navami 10.58 pm
- **Nakshatra:** Jyeshta 5.43 pm
- Moon in Dhanur Rashi
- **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm
- **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 20°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 06.08 am
Sunset 06.31 pm
Moonrise 12.31 pm
Moonset 11.59 pm

BBMP staff crisis may hit smooth transition to GBA

Employees' assn demand direct recruitment to improve accountability and efficiency

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

AS the 18-year-old Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) makes way for the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) from September 2, one of the major challenges in ensuring a smooth transition is the staff shortage across various levels. The BBMP is already functioning with severe staff shortage and with the city now being split into five new corporations, Bengaluru Central, North, East, South, and West, the demand for staff will only increase.

"Bengaluru had one corporation with 198 wards, and even for this setup there was a shortage of more than 5,000 staff, excluding pourakarmikas (PKs). Though the sanctioned staff strength is over 22,000, including PKs, the BBMP has been managing with only around 17,000 personnel," said A Amrut Raj, President of the BBMP Officers and Employees Association.

He added, "Now, the city has been divided into five corporations with 450 wards. Each corporation will have a Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Engineers, Standing Committee heads, and each will need dedicated staff. The GBA would require more engineers, personal assistants, peons, clerks, typists, First Division Assistants (FDAs), Second Division Assistants (SDAs), drivers, and others."

Employees said they are already overburdened, working extra hours to clear the tasks, and that transition will significantly increase their workload. They further stressed that unless the government takes immediate steps to recruit more staff, it will be impossible to manage the tasks effectively.

Raj pointed out that a majority of the existing workforce is either on deputation or outsourced, and urged the government to end this practice. "Direct recruitment under GBA would bring accountability and improve the quality of work. Those on deputation eventually return to their parent departments and are not held responsible if anything goes wrong," he said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Chief Commissioner **M Maheshwar Rao**, in a media statement on Sunday, said that the current 198 wards will continue to function until the five corporations are officially notified. He said the BBMP is in the process of identifying the required number of personnel and the budget for operating the new corporations once they are notified. He also said that a delimitation commission would be notified under the GBA Act after the corporations are formed. This commission will determine the number, boundaries, and other details of wards under each corporation.

GBA to have 15 IAS and 2 IPS officers

The state government has ordered the reallocation of IAS and IPS officers from the BBMP to the GBA. While the BBMP earlier had 16 IAS officers, a government order dated August 29 reduced the number by one, allocating 15 IAS officers for the GBA and the five corporations. The two IPS posts under the BBMP's Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) will continue in the GBA without change.Further, the 19 Karnataka Administrative Service posts in BBMP have been reduced to 17 and reallocated to the GBA. One Karnataka State Police Service post in the BMTF will also continue under the GBA.

STENCH, RASHES, FLIES

BSK residents want SWM unit shut, shifted

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

RESIDENTS of Banashankari 6th Stage and surrounding areas staged a rally on Sunday, demanding the closure and relocation of the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (SWM) processing unit at Lingadheeranahalli. The protest, held under the banner "Parisara Jagruti Jaatha", was organised to highlight what locals describe as years of health hazards, environmental damage, and official apathy.

The residents, who marched from the garbage plant along 100-ft Road to Chikkegowdanapalya, accused the BBMP of showing an inhuman approach by installing a large waste facility in the middle of a residential layout.

Apart from residents, environmental activists, Congress leader Shivamadaiah and BJP leader Jayaram Gowda, who is also the Supreme Court Petitioner in this case, extended support. Protesters also recalled how the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had earlier fined BBMP Rs 10 lakh for environmental damage and ordered a halt to processing, but operations continued after the civic body obtained relief from the Supreme Court.

Locals allege that ever since the plant was set up in 2015 as a "temporary" measure, it has continuously released toxic emissions and leachate into the surroundings. The unbearable odour, with swarms of mosquitoes and houseflies, has forced many families to relocate, while others have postponed moving into their homes. "At night, the stench becomes suffocating. Hundreds of flies swarm into our houses. We are battling skin rashes, respiratory issues, and recurring fevers, yet our complaints have gone unheard," said Rashmi Mavinkurve, a resident.

Despite repeated assurances from the government, including statements from the deputy chief minister that garbage plants would be shifted to the city's outskirts, residents say no action has followed. Complaints to the KSPCB go unanswered, with only token acknowledgments issued. Despite a suo motu case initiated by the Upa Lokayukta based on a TNIE report in April 2024, residents complain that no visible change is still seen. Residents argue that the plant violates buffer zone norms, with houses next to its compound wall. They accuse BBMP of failing to comply with the 29 conditions set by the Supreme Court and ignoring Karnataka State Pollution Control Board directions. While the Supreme Court permitted operations under strict safeguards, locals say no conditions have been implemented.

"KSPCB's studies have been eyewash. Toxic water is dumped into stormwater drains, polluting Sompura Lake and flowing towards the Cauvery basin. The air is filled with methane, hydrogen sulphide, and other volatile organic compounds. Even the so-called odour-control measures, like spraying lemongrass oil, are causing dizziness and nausea," Keshav Prasad HS, another resident, rued.

Residents of Banashankari 6th Stage protest against BBMP's neglect over the Solid Waste Management plant on Sunday

BIDDING FAREWELL

People carry an idol of Lord Ganesha on St John's Road for immersion at Ulsoor Lake in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

BWSSB rolls out smart card for sanitation staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will launch a unique welfare scheme for its sanitation staff on Monday, introducing the "Annapoorna Smart Card" to ensure they begin their day with a nutritious breakfast. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will unveil the initiative by handing over the cards to workers.

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said the initiative is the first-of-its-kind in the country, combining technology with welfare. As part of the scheme, more than 700 sanitation workers employed with the Board will be given a smart card powered by Axis Bank. A monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 will be credited directly to each card, which can then be used at food outlets of the workers' choice.

"This is our way of saluting the relentless efforts of those who keep our city clean. We want every worker to begin the day with good health, nutrition, and respect," Manohar said, adding that the scheme reflects a smart city with a humane touch and allows workers to choose their own meals rather than depend on fixed food distribution.

Activists protest to save 368 trees at Cantonment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

ENVIRONMENTAL activists and citizens on Sunday protested at the Cantonment Railway Colony, urging the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to protect 368 century-old trees that are once again under threat. Activists tied posters with slogans to the trees, demanding that BBMP uphold its earlier biodiversity declaration and warning against any move to reverse it. The protest follows concerns after a recent meeting chaired by BBMP Administrator Tushar Girinath, which hinted at the possibility of re-examining the decision.

The trees, located in the historic Cantonment Railway Colony, had earlier faced the axe when Bagmane Builders proposed a construction project on the site. The plan triggered widespread outrage, with over 10,700 objections and 4,500 emails sent to authorities. Led by the organisation Parisarakkagi Naavu, the campaign drew support from retired Supreme Court judges, seers, writers, journalists, and senior citizens, who argued that Bengaluru, which has already lost nearly all its green cover since the 1970s, cannot afford another ecological setback.

Following the campaign, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre visited the site in June and promised action. On June 25, the State Biodiversity Board declared the Cantonment Railway Colony a 'Biodiversity Zone' , a move that initially reassured activists and citizens.

However, the latest developments have reignited fears. With Bengaluru's tree cover shrinking to below 3 percent and air pollution worsening, activists say preserving the Cantonment trees has become symbolic of the city's larger environmental struggle.

EXPRESS READ

Applications invited for Deeksha Bhoomi visit in Maha

Bengaluru: The Department of Social Welfare has invited applications from followers of Dr B. R. Ambedkar for a visit to Deeksha Bhoomi in Maharashtra, a sacred monument of Navayana Buddhism that also houses a memorial for Ambedkar. The visit is scheduled from September 30 to October 4, with travel arranged by bus and train. Participants will reach Deeksha Bhoomi on October 2 and return on October 4.Interested applicants can submit their applications at https://swdservices.karnataka.gov.in/. The last date for submission is September 9.

BIS organises Manak Samvad

Bengaluru: The BIS organised Manak Samvad recently to engage with newly inducted licensees and raise awareness about quality standards, conformity assessment and consumer safety. During the event, Sushma Rao M, Director and Head of the branch office, highlighted the importance of industry-BIS collaboration in improving product quality and reliability. This was followed by a technical session led by Premlata Sinha, Scientist-D and Joint Director, who explained the BIS certification process, roles and responsibilities of licensees, and updated guidelines on handling non-conformities. Licence documents were also formally handed over to the new licensees during the event.

Army troops attend wellness sessions at AOL

Bengaluru: Troops from the Indian Army's Gorkha Amphibians of the Banaswadi Military Garrison, along with their families, attended a spiritual and wellness camp at the Art of Living International Centre on Kanakapura Road on Sunday. This followed the recent participation of the Ukrainian military in sessions hosted by Art of Living (AOL) delegates in Ukraine. The participants engaged in a day-long programme, which included guided meditation and "Yoga Nidra", followed by a tour of the ashram. The programme aimed to strengthen their mental resilience, equip them with stress-management skills, and nurture their emotional wellbeing as attributes complementary to the physicality required in their line of work. The highlight of the visit was described to be an interaction with Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the founder of AOL. He emphasised the importance of harmony, inner strength and service. He also reiterated the commitment of the Art of Living Foundation towards the welfare of the Indian Armed Forces.

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports distributes cash reward for players who won medals at the 38th National Games. A total of Rs 4.3 crore was distributed.CM Siddaramaiah presented the rewards in the presence of MLC Dr K Govindaraj, who is also President of FIBA Asia and Karnataka Olympic Association. MLAs Rizwan Arshad and Manjunath, along with Naveen Raj Singh, Principal Secretary, DYES, and R Chethan, Commissioner, DYES, were also present.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

01ST September : We're approaching another turning-point in the solar cycle. This one points to a slight dip in levels of stability and an equivalent rise in lively energies and overall restlessness. It follows that it's a good period for many of us to do those things which we always wanted to do but never did. There's no time like the present!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Last month's personal ups and downs may still be having a profound effect, but you should remember that you're in a long-term cycle and must wait until next spring for the acclaim you so richly deserve. Avoid pointless confrontations with partners.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You can afford to congratulate yourself on recent achievements, even if you get the feeling that some of your successes have gone largely unrecognised, especially at work. You may charm others, but don't spin them a line or manipulate them into acting against their interests.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Everything still focuses on parts of your chart ruling love. Perhaps you already have an inkling that social and romantic affairs are about to improve. Your personal creativity should also soon take a leap forward, all the more so if you have acquired the necessary skills.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Today's news and choices presage next week's actions and events. You may now be forced to decide whether to pursue a current matter to its logical conclusion or let sleeping dogs lie. Remember that old saying - 'if it isn't broken, don't try and fix it'!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The Moon directs your attention to home and family matters. The question of the moment seems to be commitment, but when feelings are so nebulous and difficult to define, the answers are difficult to find. Perhaps you should redouble your efforts to discover the truth?

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The key to a successful day is good communication. You are often forced to consider aspects of your life in a new light. Right now the question may be whether you have done enough to make yourself clear, or whether you have been responsible for misunderstandings.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Something very strange has been happening in your professional or public life. For one reason or another, you've had to return to the past for your information or inspiration, and you may now feel as if you've wasted your time. All this will change before the week is out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The very fact that the Moon is aligned with your sign may be accountable for your swings of mood, especially if you can't decide whether to go out or stay in. It is likely that you'll be much happier in a homely, secure environment than fighting for your ambitions at work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You can be surprisingly secretive at times, and this is one of them. There may be perfectly good reasons to keep your thoughts to yourself, and nobody else has any right to demand that you reveal all unless you are willing. Plus, a new responsibility might be heading your way at work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The time when Mercury forms a challenging relationship to your chart is often filled with confusion and inspiration in equal doses. In many ways this will be helpful if it motivates you to question whatever fundamental improvements are now necessary.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Before long, probably sooner than you think, you'll have to choose where to put your energy. The answers to current questions cannot be found in the facts alone, but in what you believe in your heart to be right. All you have to do is convince others that you know what you're talking about.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
A whole cluster of planets is aligned with dreamy and imaginative regions of your chart. In the final analysis, it may be more important for your personal happiness to pursue your worldly ambitions rather than devoting your time to domestic tasks.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

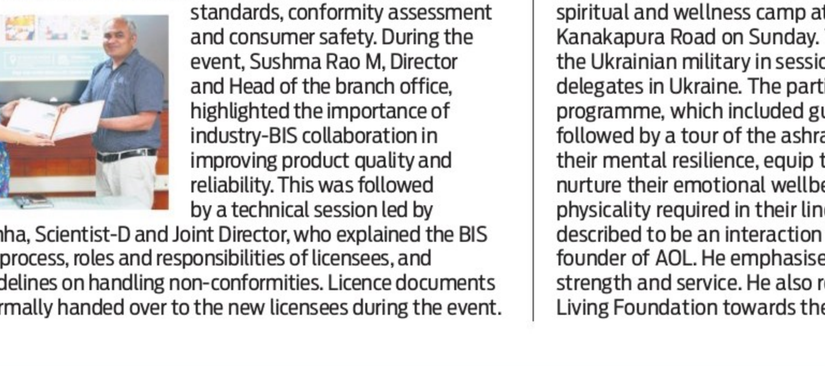
						3		4
	8	1	7		4	6	9	2
					8	7		
	2		3	1			7	
3	7			8			2	9
	1			4	7		5	
		8	6					
1	3	7	4		5	9	6	
9		2						

2	3	1	5	4	9	7	8	6
4	9	8	7	6	2	5	1	3
5	6	7	3	1	8	9	4	2
6	2	4	8	5	1	3	9	7
3	8	9	4	2	7	6	5	1
7	1	5	9	3	6	8	2	4
1	7	2	6	9	5	4	3	8
8	5	3	1	7	4	2	6	9
9	4	6	2	8	3	1	7	5

SU DO KU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Tenderising chopped-up cooking components (11)
9 Allow in some exotic food (7)
10 Father bloodstained having shaved (5)
11 Enlightened times (4)
12 Not real money they reckon (8)
14 Peephole for viewer to lease (6)
16 Exploded with absence of sound? (3,3)
18 Embarrassed-looking Marxist confronted (3-5)
19 This bird's the reverse of other birds (4)
22 Record membership (5)
23 Form of ciphers (7)
24 Alan's note is startling in a way (11)

DOWN

2 One wants to be so described (5)
3 Animal on its back in long grass (4)
4 He has absolute control of the French drug (6)
5 Writer in Essex bothered by costs (8)
6 It sinks beneath the waves (7)
7 Frozen to the core? (4-7)
8 Final date in the Julian calendar? (4,2,5)
13 Failures in acting led Faust to be abandoned (8)
15 Confirm being somewhat sore after the finish (7)
17 Domestic service (3,3)
20 Country doctors are OK (5)
21 Be quiet, give two rings and drive away (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Ordeal, 4 Estimate, 9 Gannet, 10 Scramble, 12 Nous, 13 Funny, 14 Here, 17 Inconstantly, 20 Spendthrifts, 23 Iris, 24 Diary, 25 Dual, 28 Sedition, 29 Bikini, 30 Aircraft, 31 Peanut.

Down: 1 Organdie, 2 Denounce, 3 Aden, 5 Second nature, 6 Iran, 7 Ambled, 8 Eleven, 11 Putting it off, 15 Snaps, 16 Glare, 18 Effusion, 19 Psalmist, 21 Siesta, 22 Bidder, 26 Star, 27 Side.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

MSOTP

VADIO

HRCEWN

SUJDTA

C'mon- mankind is waiting. Let's plant some footprints!
Wait. We have procedures to follow.
7/7
ONCE THE "EAGLE" HAD LANDED, AN ANXIOUS BUZZ ALDRIN WANTED NEIL ARMSTRONG TO ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TWIRL WHOSE SHROUD SALARY
Answer: His claim that he could eat one of the hot dogs in just two bites was — HARD TO SWALLOW

The police have arrested two out of three accused involved in the digital arrest of a teacher who lost Rs 22.40 lakh recently. Based on the complaint lodged by a teacher, the CEN police arrested Arun Kumar (35) of Belur in Hassan district and Madhukumar (38) of the same taluk. The first accused, Ashraf, however, is at large

FILM PRODUCER BOOKED FOR ASSAULT, CASTEIST ABUSE

Woman attacked over land dispute

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AN FIR has been registered against the producer of Kannada movie 'Dia', Krishna Chaitanya, his associate, and others, for allegedly assaulting a woman and abusing her with vulgar and casteist remarks.

The East Division Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police registered the case on Friday. This is the first case registered in the East division DCRE police station, a specialised unit established by the Karnataka Government to register and probe cases of atrocities against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

According to the FIR, the woman, a resident of Netaji Nagar, filed a complaint stating that she along with her friend had leased 3 acres and 35 guntas of land in Kasavanahalli village in Varthur, where she has been running a nursery. On August 10, Krishna Chaitanya, along with his associate Satyanarayana Reddy and others, allegedly trespassed the land, abused her with casteist slurs, physically assaulted her and inappropriately touched her, and even threatened to kill her if she did not vacate the property.

The FIR further stated that the woman had initially approached the jurisdictional Bellandur police station to lodge a complaint, but the latter allegedly refused to register a case. She then filed a complaint with the DCRE police, which said that a case has been registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, trespassing, assault, and outraging the modesty of a woman.

"The land-related documents are being verified and notice will be issued to the accused for questioning," an officer said. Further investigations are on.

ROAD SAFETY DRIVE

MLA CK Ramamurthy at a bike rally titled 'Rotary Tiranga Roadshow', oganised by Rotary Bengaluru Bannerghatta in association with Moto Tourism & Biking Community Federation of India, on Bannerghatta Road on Sunday | KEVIN NASHON

Man enters PG, targets woman, flees with cash

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AN unidentified man, who barged into a women's paying guest (PG) accommodation, allegedly attempted to sexually assault a woman and escaped with Rs 2,500 in cash. The incident took place in BTM Layout in the Suddaguntepalya police station limits early on Friday morning.

The police said that around 3-3.30 am, the intruder entered Lakshman Durga Ladies PG near Gangothri Circle, went to the first floor of the building, locked some of the room doors from outside, and then entered a room where a woman was asleep alone. He allegedly inappropriately touched her and attempted to sexually assault her. As she resisted, he stole Rs 2,500 and tried to escape. The woman started screaming and came running out of her room to stop him.

The video, captured on security camera, showed the woman hitting the intruder, but the latter escaped after assaulting her.

DCP (Southeast) Sarah Fathima said that a case has been registered. Police are analysing CCTV footage, and preliminary investigation revealed that the intruder barged into the PG, attempted sexual assault, and fled. The PG had a security guard, she added. Further investigations are on.

Woman throws chilli powder at beautician to rob her, arrested

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

THE presence of mind of a 44-year-old beautician who was robbed at her beauty parlour ended in the arrest of the accused, a 30-year-old woman.

The incident occurred at Kruthika Beauty Parlour on MG Road in Channapatna town recently. The victim has been identified as Saritha, a resident of Channapatna town. The accused has been identified as Sabhiha Banu, also from the same town.

"The victim in her complaint stated that she has been running the beauty parlour for the last one year. On the fateful day, the accused went to the victim's parlour around 12.30 pm. She kept delaying her turn, claiming that she was waiting for somebody. After nearly two hours, the accused attacked the victim when she was alone by throwing chilli powder on her face. After snatching the victim's mangalasutra, the accused tried to flee. The victim, unable to bear the irritation, ran outside the parlour and started screaming to catch the attention of passersby. Ravi, the owner of a nearby medical store, came to the victim's rescue and nabbed the accused with the help of others," said a police officer.

"The cost of the gold chain which the accused tried to flee rob is around Rs 2 lakh. It has since been recovered. We are checking the antecedents of the accused to ascertain if she was a habitual offender," added the officer.

A case of robbery under Section 309 (4) of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita has been registered against Sabhiha Banu by the Channapatna East police. Further investigation is on.

CAs BACKBONE OF INDIA'S ECONOMIC INTEGRITY: MIN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MINISTER for Health and Family Welfare **Dinesh Gundu Rao** on Saturday said that chartered accountants are the backbone of India's economic integrity.

He was speaking at the two-day 20th Karnataka State-Level Chartered Accountants' Conference, which concluded on Saturday. The event, hosted by the Southern India Regional Council (SIRC) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), witnessed the participation of over 2,000 chartered accountants. "As India progresses towards becoming a developed nation, your role in ensuring transparency and accountability is pivotal. You are true partners in nation-building," Rao said while addressing the gathering.

He also underlined the importance of adopting healthy practices to prevent diseases, irrespective of the country's progress in healthcare. "Healthy professionals are not just an asset to their families but also to the nation. I urge you to lead by example in this regard," he added.

The key speaker on the second day was Sri Gavishiddeshwar Mahaswamiji of Gavimath, Koppal, who delivered a spiritual discourse on the essence of human life, inspiring the participants.

Other speakers included Maharshi Prashanth Kumar, Vice President of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Bengaluru, and Charanjot Singh Nanda, President of ICAI, among others.

As India progresses towards becoming a developed nation, your role in ensuring transparency and accountability is pivotal. You are true partners in nation-building

Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Ekroop Caur appointed nodal officer from state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has appointed IAS officer **Ekroop Caur** as the nodal officer to coordinate the state's participation in the prestigious National Quantum Mission - NQM.

Caur will work closely with the IISc to ensure Karnataka's role in shaping the nation's quantum future. This follows an intervention by former ACS and now Member of Parliament Kumar Naik.

He raised the issue in the Lok Sabha under Rule 377 on August 11, 2025. He emphasised the need for greater involvement of Karnataka in NQM, an initiative aimed at advancing quantum technology R&D in India. He stressed on the importance of collaborative efforts between the central and state governments. Replying, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh assured Naik that state representatives will be actively involved in the mission's highest-level decision-making. Dr Singh wrote to Shalini Rajneesh, requesting the nomination of a senior officer to represent the state on the Hub Governing Board -- HGB of the NQM.

QUANTUM MISSION

Caur's will coordinate with IISc to align the state's scientific and technological capabilities with the mission's objectives. "I welcome this positive step by the Union Government. The window of opportunity is open, and Karnataka is ready to co-create India's quantum future," Kumar Naik said.

The National Quantum Mission, launched to position India as a global leader in quantum technologies, aims to foster innovation in areas such as quantum computing, cryptography, and communication.

I welcome this positive step by the Union Government. The window of opportunity is open, and Karnataka is ready to co-create India's quantum future

Kumar Naik, Member of Parliament

Std 7 girl pregnant, case against Std 8 boy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bagalkot

A Class 7 student of Morarji Desai Residential School at Kandagal village in Ilkal taluk of Bagalkot district is found to be two months pregnant.

Following a complaint filed by her parents, the Ilkal Rural police have registered a POCSO case against a Class 8 student from the same school and hailing from Badnur village in Mudhol taluk. The boy is alleged to have had physical contact with the girl on a few occasions on the school premises and at a field near Lokapur.

Shashidhar Kosambe, member, Karnataka Commission for Child Rights, told *TNIE* that they have taken suo motu cognisance of the matter. Since the boy is a minor, he will be treated as a child in conflict with the law. Shashidhar said he has already spoken to the Bagalkot SP and asked him to produce the boy before the Juvenile Justice Board on Monday. Later, the boy should be sent to observation home, he added.

This comes in the backdrop of a minor girl delivering in the bathroom of her school at Yadgir recently.

Registered Post to be merged with Speed Post

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

FROM Sept 1, if you want to send a Registered Post with India Post, simply Speed Post it.

K Prakash, Chief Postmaster General, Bengaluru Circle, says the forthcoming merger of Registered Post with Speed Post will ensure addressee specific delivery with the introduction of One-Time Password (OTP).

The merger will be brought about by the implementation of Advanced Postal Technology (APT) 2.0. "We have incorporated a feature for One-Time Password (OTP) verification. There cannot be a better addressee-specific delivery system than OTP delivery. Earlier, an identity card was required at the time of delivery, which in most cases could not be retrieved. Therefore, the postman had to rely on his local knowledge. It was an arbitrary and fallible system. This is much more rigorous," says Prakash.

He adds that most civilians prefer Speed Post over Registered Post. Registered Post is mostly used for governmental correspondence due to its addressee-specific nature. "Court notices, police summons, and governmental letters are sent via Registered Post. Due to this limited nature of use, the demand for this is stagnating," he says.

Prakash adds, "As products, they are almost the same. Speed Post has most of the features of Registered Post [with the added element of speed]. So, the department is merging the two."

He adds that with the advent of APT 2.0, India Post will be able to capture a lot of information about consumer trends at the booking stage. "This will include about 8-10 different categories of demand, including next day delivery. The possibility of these services being introduced soon remains very open," he says.

POCSO CASE

GP prez married to minor? Plaint filed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

A police complaint has been filed against the president of Bassapur Gram Panchayat in Hukkeri taluk of Belagavi district for allegedly marrying a 15-year-old girl. Though the marriage took place in November 2023, it came to light only recently.

The complaint, filed at the Yamakanamardi police station, states that the gram panchayat president, Bheemashi Kalimani, married the minor on November 5, 2023, and she reportedly gave birth five months ago. After confirming the charges, the police have also booked him under the POCSO Act.

The Child Rights Commission has directed the Belagavi Zilla Panchayat CEO and District Child Protection Officer to file complaints and ensure the girl's safety. Though the instructions had been issued to the deputy commissioner, child protection officials and the Women and Child Welfare Department, no action has been taken against the accused.

Though child rescue teams visited Bassapur village four times, they failed to trace and arrest him. A woman activist from Belagavi alleged that he has not been arrested as he belongs to the ruling Congress.

Accused repeatedly raped girl, say cops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"AFTER thorough counselling, she revealed that her brother impregnated her," Khan said. He added, "All the children in the family suffer from borderline intellectual disability. The family is poor; the father is a daily wage painter, while the mother is a homemaker."

He said the house is small and all the brothers and sisters sleep in the same room. The accused repeatedly raped the girl over several days. The girl's mother also failed to monitor the girl's menstrual cycle.

Once the girl and the child are discharged from the hospital, CWC will take care of the girl till she turns 18. "If the girl wants to keep the baby, we will hand it over to her. Otherwise, it will be given up for adoption as per law. The accused will be sent to the correction home."

Cabbie booked for attempt to murder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

WHEN she fell down, he poured petrol on her and set her on fire with a lighter. Two bystanders tried to rescue her and one of them sustained minor burns. As people started gathering, Vittal ran away from the spot. The crowd managed to douse the fire using mats and bedsheets.

Vanajakshi was rushed to Victoria Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment, the police said.

Based on Muniyappa's complaint, an attempt-to-murder case was registered and Vittal was arrested on Saturday night.

The investigation revealed that Vanajakshi had separated from her husband three years ago, and he had passed away three months ago. She lived with Vittal for about a year and had left him recently and started living with Muniyappa. This allegedly enraged the accused, who attacked her, the police added.

REMEMBRANCE

Wg Cdr (Retd)
JACOB ANTHIKAD
Arrived Sept 1, 1938 - Departed Feb 1, 2015
"You vacated your earthly abode since ten years; Your absence is marked by a cascade of tears; Your memory is an eternal flame; Which glows at the mention of your name"

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner Sri.Manjunath V S/o B.L.Venugopal residing at No.19, Anjineya Temple Street, Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore - 560022. he having self acquired Property the Sale deed Document No.DNH-1-05978/2018-19, CD No.DNHD 678, Dated : 11-10-2018.

All persons having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my clients will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural dry land bearing Sy.No.125/4 measuring 0-13.3/4 guntas situated at Karahalli Amanikere Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded as follows:
East by : Land belonging to Sri.H.Dyavappa & Gowramma, West by : Sy No.125/1 Land belonging to Ravindra Kumar & Nagegowda, North by : Land belonging to Smt. Sanjeevamma, South by : Land belonging to Smt. LakShmamma,

Ambarish.D.M, Advocate
1st Floor, Abhay Complex, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town - 562110.
Ph.No. 9900000678

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SHOULD INDIA MAINTAIN ITS TIES WITH U.S. IN THE POST-TARIFF ERA?

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DECODED BY
NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO STAY UPDATED

NOTICE

Date: August 27, 2025

We, **M/s. Freshtohome Foods Pvt. Ltd** ("Company") bearing CIN: U51101KA2011PTC059104, having Registered Office at: No. 201, 2nd Floor, Carlton Towers No. 1 Old Airport Road, Kodihalli Bangalore KA 560008 IN hereby revoke, and rescind the Specific Power of Attorney executed by us on April 01, 2023 in favour of Ms. Priya Muralikumar designated as Company Secretary & Legal Counsel to undertake the specific acts and deeds for and on behalf of the Company PAN India.

Notice is hereby given that, as of **August 20, 2025,** the aforesaid Specific Power of Attorney will be void and of no further force or effect due to cessation of employment. After the date of publication of this notice, anyone interacting with the aforementioned Attorney does so at their own risk, and the company is not liable for any contractual commitments made by the Attorney on behalf of the company.

For Freshtohome Foods Pvt. Ltd
Sd/- B M Tambakad, Director

THE ONLY CONSTANT IN THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS CHANGE. MITCHELL KAPOR
QuoteExpress

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.
Roc.No. 3716 /A&A/RIGHTS/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 29.08.2025

Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of Assessment and Therapy equipments to 84 block level OSC's in 5 districts of Coimbatore, Erode, Salem, Perambalur and Thanjavur to equip with appropriate equipments, materials, etc. through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website - **www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner, Commissionerate for Welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 4765 /TENDER/2025

Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

One of the key reasons why the literacy rate among women in Karnataka is a mere 77.3%, slightly better than the national average, is girls dropping out of schools owing to a host of reasons — parental pressure, household burden, lack of infrastructure, less number of high schools closer home, not enough women teachers, etc. It is time Karnataka took a leaf out of neighbouring states' textbook to improve its learning curve

WHY WOMEN SKIP THE ALPHABET?

RISHITA KHANNA & GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

WHILE Karnataka is known for premier institutions and a tech thriving economy, for every 10 men who can read, nearly two women still cannot. The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (2023–24) shows 88.1% literacy among men, compared to just 77.3% among women, a gap of 10.8 percentage points. As per the figures, consolidated by the Karnataka Child Rights Observatory and vetted by UNICEF for the two-day workshop conducted for School Health and Wellness Programme, overall literacy rate stands at 82.7% for the state.

Neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala have managed to bridge this divide, in terms of both gender and literacy, through large-scale re-enrolment initiatives and statewide literacy missions. Karnataka introduced programmes like dor-to-dor survey to understand the dropout rates, but these programmes remained scattered and have not reached every district with equal intensity.

The distance to schools, particularly secondary schools, the drop in school numbers, specifically after primary level, and the shortage of teachers including instances where a single teacher handles the school or students from multiple grades are compelled to sit together, have all added to the problem, resulting in dropouts that have further widened the gender gaps. In regions like Yadgir and Raichur, where both literacy and intervention to improve it remained low, these barriers leave students, mostly girls, at risk of slipping out of the system.

Karnataka in 2016 gave a commitment to the Union government that it will have no dropouts over the next three years. But the state recorded 18,461 dropouts in the 2022–23 academic year, one of the highest totals nationwide, particularly among children aged 6 to 14 - the core group mandated under the Right to Education (RTE) Act. Migration, family conflicts, health issues, disability and the onset of puberty also contribute to dropout risk, especially among marginalised. Data from Dharwad shows that many children haven't even enrolled because their families move in and out of the district just before the academic year begins.

Educationist and retired professor Sabeeha Bhumi Gowda pointed out that lack of basic facilities in schools often pushes girls out of the education system. "Many government schools still do not have clean toilets with running water. As a result, girls avoid drinking water during the day and struggle to manage menstruation, which forces them to miss classes. If they miss classes for three days or so, classmates, especially boys, recognise the reason and this, for many girls, creates embarrassment as these topics are not discussed openly," she said.

Distance to schools is another barrier. In areas where schools are far from home and there is no reliable transport, many girls discontinue after the early years. Moreover, family responsibilities also play a part, Sabeeha said, explaining that when parents work as daily-wage labourers, elder daughters are often expected to take care of younger siblings. This added burden makes it difficult for them to continue schooling, adding to the dropout rate.

Families struggling with poverty also face pressure to pull children into the workforce or t0 reduce household burdens. In Belagavi, teachers report that illiterate parents, economic needs and domestic responsibilities are common reasons for girls to drop out. "Girls further face school absenteeism due to lack of menstrual hygiene facilities and fear of punishment or embarrassment in school environments," acknowledged Rashmi Manoj, a government school teacher from Belagavi.

"I have an elder brother, and we are just a year apart. When we reached secondary school, the nearest school was nearly 5.5 km from our home, and we had only one bicycle. My family decided that my brother should go regularly, and I could only go sometimes when someone from the village was headed that way or my parents could arrange the transport," said Sujatha M, a 14-year-old girl from Raichur. "Most of the time, I couldn't go consistently and later my interest vanished. I miss going to school, but now I am learning to cook," she added.

"At the base of our system there are thousands of primary schools, but as children move to higher classes, the number of schools keeps reducing. This itself discourages many, especially girls. Having more women teachers at the primary level would make schools safer and more supportive," said child rights activist Vasudev Sharma.

He explained that girls don't leave school by choice, but because of distance, social customs and lack of support. "The solution is to build more schools closer to villages, appoint more women teachers and involve families and communities to encourage girls' education," he said.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

Infrastructure gaps like unreliable electricity and poor internet made it harder to use digital tools. Only 5,308 out of 49,679 government schools in Karnataka are equipped with internet. This is only **10.68%**

WHAT OTHER STATES DID

KERALA

Saksharatha Kerala Mission

The Sakshra Kerala Mission is a statewide literacy initiative to eradicate illiteracy, particularly focusing on women and marginalised communities. Implemented by the Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority (KSLMA), the programme offers classes, including functional literacy and continuing education. By 2025, the mission has enrolled over 18 lakh learners.

TAMIL NADU

Illam Thedi Kalvi

Illam Thedi Kalvi, meaning "Education at Doorstep", is Tamil Nadu's flagship initiative to bridge learning gaps. Launched in 2021 during Covid, it mobilises volunteers to provide remedial education to children, especially girls, in underserved areas. In the 2023-24 academic year alone, over 60,000 applications were received for Class I, and approximately 4.33 lakh students were directly engaged by volunteers. The programme's effectiveness lies in its implementation, where volunteers conduct after-school classes in local communities. This has led to a significant increase in school enrollment.

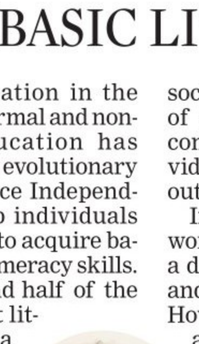
KARNATAKA

Digital Literacy Initiatives

Karnataka, starting with door-to-door surveys, tried to use its position as a tech-savvy state to improve education through multiple digital initiatives. But in many rural areas, these tools had limited impact. Girls, in particular, often could not access phones or the internet because of economic constraints. Families rarely gave them devices at a young age especially since many girls spend most of their time at home.

K'TAKA MUST REVIVE, STRENGTHEN ITS BASIC LITERACY PROGRAMMES

ADULT education in the form of informal and non-formal education has made a long evolutionary journey since Independence to help individuals and communities to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills. Later in the second half of the 20th century, adult literacy was used as a powerful tool in many countries of the world to educate adults not only in basic literacy but also as a powerful tool for political awareness as part of a movement for liberation and freedom.



Prof Niranjanaradhya VP, Development Educationist

It is important to note that a Brazilian educator and philosopher, Paulo Freire, revolutionised the idea of Adult Education through a concept called Conscientization; an emancipatory educational process where individuals and communities develop a critical awareness of their social, political, and economic realities to understand and challenge the root causes of oppression and inequality. It involves critical consciousness through dialogue, reflection and action, ultimately empowering people to work towards liberation and social justice. Later, the process of adult education became a comprehensive canvas for providing education for all throughout life as life-long learning.

In Karnataka, many pioneers worked on the issue and played a decisive role in addressing it and improving the literacy rate. However, the problem of illiteracy especially among women is an issue of concern. The statistics on literacy in Karnataka show a relatively poor scenario. According to the 2011 census, Karnataka's literacy rate for individuals aged seven and above stood at around 75% -- 82% for males and 68% for females (a gap of 14% percentage points). The highest literacy is in Dakshina Kannada (88.6 %), Bengaluru Urban (87.7 %) and Udupi (86.2 %). The mid-range literacy is in Chikkamagaluru (79.3 %) and Haveri (77.6 %). Lower literacy rates are seen in northeastern districts like Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Ballari, Raichur, Vijayapura and Bagalkot (ranging from 57-68%).

According to the National Family Health Survey (2019-20) figures, the percentage of literate women is 76.7% versus men 88.5% (a gap of 11.8 pp). Women who completed more than 10 years of schooling are around 50.2% versus men 56.5% (gap 6.3 pp). Whereas in Tamil Nadu, female literacy is 84% as compared to 90.7% of male literacy (gap 6.7 pp).

Considering the current unsatisfactory state of adult literacy in several districts of the state, it is imperative that Karnataka revives and strengthens its programmes to impart basic literacy with particular focus on women and socially marginalised communities. The revamped adult literacy programme should not be viewed merely as imparting basic literacy skills. It is indeed a programme of empowerment of the marginalised. Towards this, the state must adopt district and block specific plans to achieve total literacy. The Directorate of Mass Education needs to be restored as a separate directorate which played a key role in the past. The Kalyana-Karnataka needs a different strategy altogether where each district and block requires its own micro-plan with a workable action plan.

CM defends decision to invite Banu, says anyone can inaugurate Dasara

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday defended the decision to invite International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate this year's Mysuru-Dasara festivities.

Banu Mushtaq

"Dasara is Nada Habba (state festival). It can be inaugurated by anyone cutting across religious lines. It should not be given a religious colour," the Chief Minister said, recalling that Hyder Ali, Tipu Sultan, and Sir Mirza Ismail also oversaw the celebrations in the past.

Earlier too, poet KS Nissar Ahmed from the Muslim community was invited to inaugurate Dasara, Siddaramaiah said.

Actor Ram Charan greets Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Mysuru on Sunday. The actor was in Mysuru for the shooting of his film 'Peedi' | x

Objections were raised to Banu inaugurating Dasara after an old video of the writer went viral, in which she had reportedly expressed reservations about worshipping Kannada as Goddess Bhuvaneshwari draped in yellow and red—the colours of turmeric and vermilion—calling it exclusionary to minorities. Siddaramaiah shot back, saying, "They (those who are objecting) cannot link the statement to the Dasara invite. BJP is looking for something to protest against the writer," the Chief Minister said, adding that only fanatics are opposed to Banu—who has immensely contributed to Kannada—inaugurating the Nada Habba.

He also took strong objection to Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly R Ashoka accusing Banu of eating beef.

On the BJP questioning as to why translator Deepa Bhasthi, who shared the International Booker Prize with Banu, was not invited, the CM said that the former was also honoured by the government.

Ashoka slams Cong, says will launch Chamundeshwari Chalo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

LEADER of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader **R Ashoka** on Sunday warned that if the the sanctity of Chamundeshwari temple is harmed, a huge protest, 'Chamundeshwari Chalo,' on the lines of 'Dharmasthala Chalo,' will be launched in the state.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to the temple in Mysuru on Sunday, Ashoka said may Goddess Chamundeshwari grant good sense to the Congress government. "May God remove their mindset of targeting Hindu centres of faith. Hindu religious centres should always be protected and remain sacred. They should not harm the sentiments of Hindus. I have prayed to the mother for this," he said. Ashoka said that the Mysuru Wadiyar Royal Family has been celebrating Dasara for hundreds of years. "The Congress government should not desecrate such a sacred festival. Congress leaders have said that this is not a Hindu temple. If so, whose is it? If you have courage, will you go in front of a mosque and say that it does not belong to Muslims? After Sabarimala and Tirupati, now Dharmasthala and Chamundeshwari temples are being targeted," Ashoka said.

"We fought for 500 years to save Ayodhya. If the toolkit culture continues, the downfall of the Congress will begin from here," he said. A controversy has erupted after Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar recently said Chamundi Hills and Goddess Chamundeshwari belonged to every religion, and it was not the property of Hindus alone. The BJP has strongly opposed this.

Deputy CM hails contributions of Mysuru kings

ENS @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY CM DK Shivakumar on Sunday hailed the contribution of Mysuru kings and Urs community towards building a secular and areligious Karnataka with a focus on human development. Speaking at the Golden jubilee of Urs Association at the Palace Grounds, the Deputy CM said, "Urs community may be small in size, but its contribution to the state is immense. The Wadiyar family has contributed greatly to the state. The iconic KRS, Vani Vilas Sagar dam, JC Engineering College, Victoria Hospital and Shivanasamudra power plant are just some of the corner stones they laid for a progressive Karnataka. We are all enjoying the fruits of their vision and effort."

"Urs community leaders have submitted a memorandum seeking reservation and sites for community. We will discuss this request at the government level and with the royal family and take a decision," he said.

A 28-year-old man was murdered using country bombs near Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday. Rajkamal of Kadambathur was riding home on his bike, when a gang hurled bombs. Though he escaped twice, they chased him down, and hacked him to death. Another man who tried to intervene was injured

BJP'S DHARMASTHALA CHALO RALLY TODAY

1 lakh supporters expected to participate; Religious sentiments of Hindus hurt by false allegations: Dakshina Kannada MP Chowta

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

OVER 1 lakh supporters are expected to participate in the 'Dharmasthala Chalo, Namma Nadige Dharmasthaladedege' rally organised by the BJP in Dharmasthala on September 1 (Monday).

Dakshina Kannada MP and state BJP secretary Capt Brijesh Chowta, addressing reporters on the premises of Dharmasthala temple on Sunday, said, "Religious sentiments of Hindus are hurt by these false allegations. Hence, we are demanding an NIA probe against the conspiracy. BJP under state party president BY Vijayendra will organise 'Dharmasthala Chalo, Namma Nadige Dharmasthaladedege' rally on Monday. False allegations are made against Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala, and the case, which is being investigated by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), must be handed over to the National Investigation Agency, and the culprits behind the case must be brought to book."

He said that the BJP will not tolerate any propaganda hurting the sentiments of the devotees. "Initially, we welcomed the probe, but now the investigation is getting diverted. PFI indulged in anti-national activities, and its front SDPI is supporting the case, raising suspicion. There are many examples of these two organisations indulging in anti-Hindu activities, and the Congress government is encouraging them," he said.

> **Religious sentime-nts of Hindus are hurt by these false allegations. Hence, we are demanding an NIA probe against the conspiracy**
>
> Brijesh Chowta, Dakshina Kannada MP

Chowta further alleged that outsiders are showing interest in the case and there are doubts of funding. "The direction in which the probe is proceeding and the officers' actions indicate that the government itself is supporting it. BJP respects the law. Hindu society stands in solidarity with Dharmasthala Kshetra. Union ministers Prahlad Joshi, Shobha Karandlaje, Karnataka in-charge Sudhakar Reddy, and others will join the rally," he added.

BJP state secretary Tammesh Gowda alleged that they have doubts about the SIT probe, as it failed to verify the background of the person who presented a skull initially and gave him all possible facilities. "There should be a probe into whether the government succumbed to the pressure of the 'urban Naxals.' Why did SIT not arrest the complainant when he arrived with a skull? Condemning this propaganda, supporters in 2,000 buses have already left, and many more will come in over 10,000 cars to Dharmasthala on Monday. Arrangements have been made for the stay of over 20,000 people," he said.

Former minister Renukacharya said that they will conduct similar rallies in all 220 constituencies. "We demand the home minister hand over the case to the ED and NIA. We demand the arrest of Tamil Nadu MP Sasikanth Senthil. Deputy CM D K Shivakumar is diverting attention with his statement in Mysuru," he alleged.

Nikhil expresses doubt, wants NIA probe

Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade addresses a gathering in Belthangady on Sunday. JDS youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy is also seen | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hassan, Mangaluru

EXPRESSING doubts over the ongoing SIT investigation into the Dharmasthala case, JDS youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy demanded that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe the case to "uncover the truth".

Speaking to reporters at Kandali village near Hassan, where he launched the 'Dharmasthala Yatra' with JDS leaders, workers, and devotees on Sunday, Nikhil accused the State Government of insulting Dharmasthala by assigning the investigation to SIT.

He criticised the SIT for allegedly failing to question the complainant immediately after he filed the complaint and questioned the way the SIT was handling the case by interrogating unrelated individuals. Nikhil said Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy would soon meet Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara to discuss the issue.

Raising concerns over the involvement of anti-social elements, Nikhil reiterated that the JDS would not play politics over religious sentiments.

Later, addressing a gathering in Dharmasthala, Nikhil said, "Propaganda and false allegations against Dharmasthala Kshetra have hurt the sentiments of the devotees. For a fair probe, the case must be handed over to a central investigating agency. The state government has hatched a conspiracy by taking the unknown person's complaint seriously. I, along with my family, extend moral support to bring out the truth. Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade's patience, calmness, and silence must be appreciated."

Dharmadhikari Veerendra Heggade, addressing the gathering, said, "Crores of devotees are the assets of Dharmasthala. We cannot measure the value of love and trust of the devotees. It is a place of truth, dharma, and justice."

SIT to seek extension of police custody of complainant?

After the search operation, the complainant was taken back to Belthangady in Dharmasthala under tight security on Sunday afternoon, as his police custody ends on Monday.The SIT is expected to produce him before court and seek an extension, citing the need for further spot inspections and interrogation, sources added. The complainant, who remains under witness protection, was recently arrested by the SIT on charges of perjury. He was remanded in 10 days of police custody. **ENS**

No need for high-level probe, SIT given full freedom: Siddaramaiah

CM Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that there was no need for a high-level probe into the allegations of mass rapes, murders, and burials in Dharmasthala, and the SIT has been given complete freedom to investigate the matter. Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, the CM said that the BJP too had welcomed the SIT probe but was now politicising the issue by carrying out the Dharma-sthala Chalo rally. **ENS**

MADIGA CONCERNS

Govt must ensure SC quota not stayed by court, says Anjaneya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER minister **H Anjaneya** here on Sunday urged the Congress government to take measures to allay fears of Madigas, as some members of the community are planning to move court to get a stay on the implementation of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs).

"The BJP government brought in the reservation and recommended it to the Centre. It was never implemented. There is a fear that the present internal reservation would be stopped again," he said at a seminar on the 'Internal Reservation: Future Steps' held at Gandhi Bhavan, organised by the SC (Left) Madiga Community Employees' Association.

He felt that the 59 SC nomadic communities, termed 'most backward', have felt letdown as the 1% separate quota for them was revised and they have now been included in the C category among Bhovis, Lambanis, Korachas and Koramas, termed as less backward in the Justice HN Nagmohan Das commission report.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa said, "If ministers Dr G Parameshwara, Dr HC Mahadevappa and others (from SC right) had not joined hands, we would not have got internal reservation. Some people thought I would retire if the internal reservation was not implemented."

The former Kolar MP said he never wanted to contest the Assembly polls, but LoP in LS Rahul Gandhi insisted. "My becoming a minister helped implement the reservation," he said. He appealed to the CM to ensure that the quota is implemented in recruitment and also in promotions in the government. The cabinet, scheduled to meet on September 4, will discuss the issue, he added.

Jagan declines INDIA groupings' VP candidate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

IN an important political move, retired Supreme Court Judge Sudarshan Reddy, the INDIA bloc's nominee for the Vice-President of India post, reached out to YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief and former AP chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday, seeking his party's support in the upcoming election.

Justice Reddy requested Jagan to extend solidarity to the opposition camp in what is expected to be a high-stakes contest. However, Jagan politely declined, pointing out that representatives of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had approached him before the INDIA bloc announced its candidate.

He explained that he had already assured support to the NDA's nominee during those discussions. "I have tremendous personal admiration for Justice Sudarshan Reddy," Jagan said, praising his judicial contributions in safeguarding the Constitution and democratic values. "But this decision is bound by a prior commitment." The Vice-Presidential election is scheduled for September 9. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, tasked with reaching out to non-NDA parties, had earlier spoken with Jagan, who promised to decide after consulting party colleagues.

FILE PHOTO

SIT takes complainant to service apartment in B'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT)— which is probing the alleged mass burial cases in Dharmasthala— on Sunday searched a service apartment in BK Layout, Vidyaranyapura, where the complainant and three others allegedly stayed.

The SIT had brought the complainant to Bengaluru on Saturday to conduct a mahazar at activist Jayanth's house. On the second day, SIT searched the service apartment in the presence of the complainant.

According to informed sources, the SIT inspected the apartment for nearly three hours, collected CCTV camera footage and booking details, and questioned the staff. Activist Jayanth, Sujatha Bhat, who claims to be the mother of Ananya Bhat, the complainant, and activist Girish Mattananavar had stayed at the apartment and held discussions before approaching the police regarding the mass burial case. The search operation was carried out based on the complainant's statement during questioning, in which he mentioned that he had allegedly met a few people and stayed in Bengaluru before approaching the police.

On Saturday, the SIT also carried out a spot inspection at the residence of Jayanth in Peenya, where the complainant had stayed twice about four months ago. Jayanth was not at home during the inspection, but his two children were questioned, sources added.

Vokkaligas to deploy volunteers to handle caste census

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

Ahead of Karnataka's statewide caste census, the Vokkaliga community is mobilising and deploying thousands of volunteers to ensure their accurate numbers are counted.

"The numbers are wrong... we are not 62 lakh. We are at least 75 lakh, if not more," said M Nagaraj, president, Vokkaliga Meesalathi Horata Samiti, at a meeting.

Citing flaws in the Kantharaj commission's earlier estimates, Nagaraj and Samiti Convenor Auditor Nagaraj announced that an army of village-level volunteers will be formed to ensure every Vokkaliga household is counted. "We're launching a movement. Two trained volunteers or swayamsevaks in every village will visit each family and assist them in filling out all the 69 census heads. This time, the government cannot ignore us," they said.

The initiative is being coordinated under the umbrella of Vokkaliga pontiffs. Community leaders explain that some smaller subcastes are not too well educated and volunteers are needed to ensure fairness and accuracy.

Some smaller groups like the Karnataka Vokkaliga Action Committee, in partnership with the Vokkaliga Welfare Forum, too are raising awareness on the census. The Vokkaliga Kriya Samiti started the campaign with a major community meeting at Kempathahalli, Hebbal that drew a host of influential sub-sect leaders and strategists. M Nagaraj and Auditor Nagaraj said, "The Vokkaligara Sangha alone claims to have address data of over 25 lakh members, and the plan is to leverage it to cover all 16 districts south of Chitradurga, where the majority of Karnataka's Vokkaligas reside."

KG Kumar, president, Vokkaliga Action Committee, urged members to identify themselves solely as "Vokkaliga" regardless of their sub-caste. "There are 84 recognised sub-groups, but we must speak with one voice. Our strength lies in our unity," he added. A united Vokkaliga count could significantly shift the balance in both representation and resource allocation. For the past few years, Vokkaligas and the other dominant community, Lingayats, have held coordination meetings on the census and reservation.

BALANCING ACT

A girl performs acrobatics on a cloudy Sunday evening in Madurai, Tamil Nadu | K K SUNDAR

K'taka to register 2 new jamun varieties

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE consumers know the names of most of the varieties of mangoes they consume, there are many other vegetables and fruits that are consumed on a daily basis, but people do not know their names. One of the fruits in the list is jamuns- also known as Black plum or lava plum.

The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) have successfully developed new varieties of jamuns which will soon be registered and patented. This is apart from the three new jamun varieties that a Bengaluru-based progressive farmer, NC Patel, has grown in his land, which is also going to be registered and then be available in the market.

Dr G Karunakaran, principal scientist, ICAR-IIHR, said, of the two new varieties that have been developed, one is Jamun Nerantara, which is found near Pavagada. The variety is found in a land belonging to one farmer, and he is protecting the species under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA). This is because there is only one tree that is producing this variety, which is unique because of its sweetness, chewy texture and seed.

The other variety is yet to be named. This one has been developed in the institute and is presently called IIHR-JI. Its uniqueness is the size, each measuring 23-24 grams and each tree bears around 100 Kg of fruits. This is so far the largest variety and is less astringent, said Karnunakaran.

As per ICAR-IIHR, Karnataka already has multiple varieties of jamuns, including the Dupdal variety from north Karnataka, Siddamani jamun (also known as Chintamani jamun) and two varieties from Bagalkot.

Karunakaran added that, unlike other fruits, the variety of the jamuns changes region-wise and it depends upon the soil, environmental influence, climatic conditions, gene pool and method of cultivation. Work on patenting and registering the new varieties is being done, and trials on an Indian basis have already started.

He added that a large number of jamun fruits that consumers consume in the market also come from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Explaining his new produce, Patel said, he started cultivating three new varieties--Patel Jumbo, Patel Samrudhi and Patel Akal-- from 2005, and now around 150-200 plants of each variety are being grown.

EXPRESS READ

S'mogga consumer court orders fin firm to return excavator

Shivamogga: The Shivamogga District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ruled that HDB Services acted illegally by seizing and auctioning a JCB without issuing notice to its owner, and ordered them to compensate him with Rs 2.10 lakh for mental agony besides ordering the company to return the excavator. The commission, led by president T Shivanna and Member B D Yogananda Bhandya, issued its order recently, directing the financiers to accept two pending EMIs from complainant Nagaraj of Gondichattanahalli and return the vehicle within 45 days. If they fail, they must pay Rs 2,000 per day until the JCB is handed back. The bench also ordered Rs 2,10,000 in compensation for mental distress, damages and litigation costs, with 12% annual interest if not paid on time. **ENS**

India's rivers may flood together, even if far apart, finds IISc study

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

INDIA is the second-most flood-prone country in the world, according to the National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO. To better understand the scale of this risk, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) are using statistical modelling to map entire river basins, not just individual rivers, in Peninsular India, to find out whether floods in different rivers may be connected, even if the rivers themselves are far apart. Floods currently account for nearly half of all natural disaster deaths in India. Normally, the Central Water Commission (CWC) assesses flood risk at the level of individual river basins. But IISc researchers say this approach is outdated.

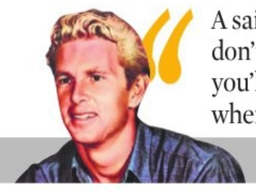
Climate change is making rains shorter in duration. This means water often runs off the surface instead of soaking into the soil, increasing the chance of simultaneous floods. To capture this, the IISc team studied records from 137 streamgauge stations. They found that floods are not confined within one river basin. Even rivers that are not connected geographically showed flood events at the same time. "Flood risk assessment studies should not be restricted to individual basins. Spatial dependencies of different rivers flooding concurrently should be investigated," says Shailza Sharma, researcher at ICAR-CRIDA and former postdoctoral fellow at IISc's Department of Civil Engineering. The researchers identified five groups of rivers that showed similar flood behaviour. They also found that this connectedness of floods has increased in recent years.

Their findings, published in Scientific Reports, suggest that India must look at regional flood patterns. The study also builds on earlier work by IISc and IIT Roorkee, which together created CAMELS-IND, a massive dataset covering 40 years of data (1980-2020). This database highlights water flow, rainfall, temperature, humidity, wind, soil type, dams, and human activity across catchments in India.

"Inconsistent data is hindering work in Indian catchment hydrology," says Kanneganti Bhargav Kumar, PhD student at IISc and first author of the study. Missing values, sudden changes in flow, or uncertainty in measurements make it difficult to create reliable models. The underlying causes have not been studied in detail until now, he added.

Reservoirs add another layer of complexity. Their operations are decided by humans, which means they can either reduce or worsen floods depending on how they are managed.

EDITORIAL



"A sailing ship is no democracy; you don't caucus a crew as to where you'll go anymore than you inquire when they'd like to shorten sail

Sterling Hayden

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INDIA-JAPAN ALLIANCE FASHIONS FUTURE ON TRUST AND TECHNOLOGY

BUILT to trust and building to last, the India-Japan partnership is entering its most defining decade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Japan for the annual summit was more than just another diplomatic event. It was a strategic signal. The two countries are deepening a relationship that has remained steady, incident-free, and mutually reinforcing over the decades. This is happening in a world of growing geopolitical fragmentation, technological divides and supply chain uncertainty.

A 'Joint Vision for the Next Decade' sits at the heart of this summit. It is a forward-facing blueprint based on eight pillars: economic security, advanced technology, clean energy, resilient mobility, innovation ecosystems and grassroots partnerships between states and prefectures. Japan's decision to double its private investment target in India to ten trillion yen ($67 billion) is more than just capital. It's a commitment reflecting its strategic wager on India's scale, capability, and its future role in shaping a global order that suits Japan. Economic security now defines the partnership. The launch of a structured dialogue between Japanese and Indian industry federations marks a turning point, aligning the public and private sectors to accelerate action in strategic domains, including critical infrastructure and emerging technologies.

Semiconductors are a flagship area. Joint initiatives have moved from concept to production. These include a new chip packaging plant in Gujarat, collaborations with Indian technology institutions, and research partnerships aimed at creating a semiconductor ecosystem rooted in Indian soil yet globally integrated. The strategic alliance between Tokyo Electron and Tata Electronics adds depth. It signals Japan's confidence in India's manufacturing future. In parallel, Japan's funding for a startup-focused fund in Tamil Nadu will boost innovation in areas from microchips to clean technology. The two countries are also cooperating more on rare earths and mineral security. This provides a crucial hedge against geopolitical risks in energy transition supply chains.

In digital infrastructure, the partnership is evolving from a buyer-seller relationship to a co-developer one. Whether in fifth-generation mobile networks, Open Radio Access Networks, or advanced communication systems, Japanese technology and Indian scale are converging to co-create the digital infrastructure of tomorrow. This summit was not about sentiment and economic strategy. India and Japan are crafting a forward-looking alliance that aligns economic ambition with strategic foresight; it must remain engineered for the future.

EMPOWER DAUGHTERS TO LIVE, STOP DOWRY

THE practice of dowry, illegal but ubiquitous in India, has returned to the headlines after the horrifying visuals of a Noida woman on fire flooded social media and TV channels. Six decades after the law against it was passed, dowry continues to burden families, permits society to look down on half its population, and to see baby girls not as beings full of potential but as embodiments of future debt. Modernity and the internet, worryingly, seem to have enhanced rather than erased its value: many social media posts show bridegrooms or in-laws flaunting the 'gifts' received or given, marking both the value of the groom and the prosperity of the bride's family. With these new pressures, how does a family refuse dowry without feeling judged for their finances? In these circumstances, how is a woman meant to toss aside money spent—or sacrificed—'on her' and walk out of an abusive marriage? And if she does walk out, does she receive support from her family and society or scorn?

These are questions to ponder as we wonder why this evil persists in bedevilling society. By now, it is clear that banning a practice is barely the beginning of its end. To uproot it entirely, it needs to be robbed of its power—it ought not be viewed as a symbol of status but as a matter of shame, and pop culture should reflect this. For this, education and empowerment should replace marriage as parents' main duty towards their daughters. When women are supported in this way, they are more likely to put their happiness first and leave abusive marriages, even if it means facing public scrutiny. Tamil Nadu was recently shaken by the news of an educated young woman named Rithanya who ended her life due to the alleged abuse and pressure of her husband and in-laws over dowry. She left voice notes for her father, apologising and saying she saw no other way out. Her shattered parents now seek justice for her death. Society needs to learn that marriage is not a woman's sole purpose in life and open its arms to those who turn away from the institution or are turned away from it, so that avoiding dowry or leaving an abusive relationship is always an option.

QUICK TAKE

CRADLE CALCULUS

A Rajasthani woman recently gave birth to her 17th child: unplanned fertility is still pervasive. Contrastingly, in the South, awareness and education have curbed numbers so effectively that CM Chandrababu Naidu urges couples to "please produce more", worried about losing central funding and parliamentary representation. Then there's Mohan Bhagwat of the RSS wanting a demographic insurance policy of three Hindu children per family. Politicians count babies like economists count GDP, but the question rarely asked is: What's India's carrying capacity? How many mouths can our economy realistically feed, educate, and employ? Let's give it some thought. After all, a billion-strong nation shouldn't need a baby boom to feel secure.

The quality of the content offered by influencers of our time might often be questionable. Yet, it is one thing to acknowledge this issue, and quite another to call for a law to 'set it right'

COMEDY, FREE SPEECH, AND THE LAW

KALEESWARAM RAJ
Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

SOURAV ROY

IT'S the prerogative of the legislature to make laws or not. Law is not a solution for every unethical act in human conduct, which would need a social or cultural diagnosis and appropriate remedies. For example, one is not punished for ingratitude, for it is only a moral wrong and not a penal offence. If a person tells a lie to their spouse, unless it contains penal ingredients, they are not punished. Bad Samaritans cannot be prosecuted for being bad. Such instances of moral wrongs are numerous in human life.

When it comes to freedom of speech and expression, legislation is a more serious business. Free speech is a constitutional guarantee under Article 19(1) (a). This can only be subjected to reasonable restrictions as indicated in Article 19(2) of the Constitution. Whether a law restrictive of free speech is reasonable or not is for the constitutional court to decide. Given the scheme of things, the court asking other branches of the state to enact restrictive legislation is bound to be inherently problematic. It negates Montesquieu's age-old idea of the separation of powers.

The Supreme Court called for a law on digital content when YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia challenged the multiple cases against him in different parts of the country. The court's demand for restrictive laws renders the constitutional scheme under Article 19 nugatory, as this writer has previously noted in an earlier piece (TNIE, March 12, 2025).

Recently, the Supreme Court took up the matter again. This time, five other comedians were present in court as per the court's direction. Comedians who allegedly mocked the disabled were directed to post apologies on social media. The court reiterated the need to frame guidelines to regulate social media posts and to draw a line between "free speech and hurtful speech". The Attorney General offered to develop a proposal. The court also said that suggestions are to be called from all stakeholders, including the Bar. Thus, almost a legislation by the executive, at the instance of the judiciary, is on the cards.

The peculiarity of the last day's hearing is its focus on "commercial speech". Commercial speech is seen as being afforded lesser free speech protection compared to non-commercial speech, at least in the American context. This is the picture emerging from the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

In India, Article 19(1)(a), on the face of it, does not distinguish between commercial speech and non-commercial speech. The distinction between the two is neither simple nor clear. It is contingent and dependent. In *Hamdard Dawakhana vs Union of India* (1959), the Supreme Court rejected the challenge to the law regarding objectionable advertisements of drugs and magic remedies. The drug producer, among other things, contended that the advertisement is entitled to get free speech protection.

Repelling the contention, the Supreme Court upheld the statute which was intended to control or prohibit the advertisement of drugs in certain scenarios. It was laid down that the commercial advertisement cannot, as of right, claim protection under Article 19(1)(a). Yet, the five-judge bench had an easy job, as it was considering a straightforward case of commercial advertisement that required regulation for the public good.

However, in the *Indian Express Newspapers Case* (1984), the court intervened in the imposition of duty, which led to a reduction in pages and a consequent decrease in the space allocated for advertisements in the newspaper. The court thus implied that commercial speech too could claim Article 19 (1)(a) protection. The same was the indication in *Tata Press vs Mahanagar Telephone Nigam* (1995). Again, in *Suresh vs State of Tamil Nadu* (1996), the court noted that the freedom under Article 19(1)(a), when mixed with commercial interest, willhave "to be balanced against societal interest".

Thus, the Supreme Court always invoked a contextual approach to the topic. Formulating a rigid rule on the point is not easy, either through legislation or adjudication.

Let us come back to the present case in the Supreme Court. The quality of the content offered by influencers of our time might often be questionable. One would think that there is an artistic and cultural erosion, ostensible on the screen. Yet, it is one thing to acknowledge this issue, and quite another thing to call for a law to 'set it right'.

Whether influencers are always commercialising the speech is a complex and contestable issue. On extension, a newspaper article containing a political opinion or social view would be termed an instance of commercial speech. One might argue that the newspaper also engages in commercial activity, as it generates income, and the writer, too, receives remuneration. This approach is clearly untenable.

There are two more issues involved. First, the country already has comprehensive laws governing online and offline content, including the Information Technology Act 2000, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021, and the Cable Television Network Regulation Act and Rules. The latter's Advertisement Code, for example, bans content that derides groups, "presents criminality as desirable", or projects derogatory images of women.

The Programme Code under the same Rules prohibits any telecast or publication that "offends against good taste or decency". Almost everything, from obscenity to innuendos and half-truths, is prohibited under the code. These are provisions beyond the conventional statutes and codes, such as the Indian Penal Code, now revised as the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. There is already criticism that the 2021 Rules on digital platforms have the potential to meddle with digital freedom, with a chilling effect on free speech. There are instances of abuse and misuse of these laws by the state.

The second issue that the court and the government will have to address is the impact of a relatively recent Constitution Bench decision in Kaushal Kishor (2023), which held that additional restrictions on free speech, beyond those permitted by Article 19(2), are impermissible. The court, in that case, specifically addressed instances of hate speech and disparaging comments, and outlined legal remedies for aggrieved persons to pursue before judicial forums. The court refused to suggest, much less direct, the framing of any guideline or even a voluntary code of conduct to regulate the speech of public functionaries. In the light of *Kaushal Kishor*, the propriety of the two-judge Bench adopting a different course of action on commercial speech would require juridical debate. The ongoing controversy underlines the need for constitutional pragmatism.

(Views are personal)
(kaleeswaramraj@gmail.com)

FINDING GRACE IN THE HEARTLAND

RENUKA NARAYANAN
FAITHLINE

I recently had the opportunity to revisit Madhya Pradesh, the Indian heartland, and came away with many musings. In Bhopal, I noticed several things. The distances were short, the roads were good, and they did not flood instantly in a downpour, unlike in Delhi NCR. The cost of living was much better, and the people were amiable, again unlike in Delhi NCR. I went around comfortably in an Uber, and the quality of Hindi spoken around me was softer and sweeter than in—where else—Delhi NCR. Plus, Bhopal was lush and green (Madhya Pradesh has the country's maximum tree cover), with lakes and hills.

The cultural differences began stacking up, big and small. For instance, those outside the Hindi belt who are rightly angered by offensive and highly regrettable Hindi chauvinism scoff that the Hindi belt is 'uneducated'. However, I noticed that residences in Bhopal had names that you were likely to find in Chennai and other South Indian cities. Whereas Delhi-NCR buildings have overly wannabe names like Richmond, Malibu Towne and Beverley Park; even wedding venues called 'Notting Hill', for heaven's sake, Bhopal's buildings had more restrained, dignified names like Athenaeum, Coral Cottage and Rainbow Apartments, and, of course, solid Indian names like Suyash and Herambh.

This doesn't make up for the sad fact that Madhya Pradesh is one of India's most *nirakshar* or illiterate states. With a literacy rate of 75.2 percent, Madhya Pradesh is embarrassingly ranked among the lowest. It belongs in a sorry cluster with Andhra Pradesh (72.6 percent), Bihar (74.3 percent), Rajasthan (75.8 percent) and Jharkhand (76.7 percent), which means Madhya Pradesh has one of the bottom-ten lowest literacy rates in India. Uttar Pradesh veers wildly between 67.68 percent and 78.2 percent. Shockingly, there is no authoritative source for 2025, but only what appear to be guesstimates tied to the 2011 Census and state government data.

I made several trips around Bhopal over the Independence Day weekend with my hosts, a young Hindi couple from Lucknow, who had recently moved to Bhopal and urged me to visit. We had initially met in Delhi, and though they were half my age, we discovered a shared love of history, culture and road trips. Like me, they fully appreciated the marvelous fact that we belonged to India, which had so much to discover wherever we went. I went on a weekend road trip with them to Alwar in Rajasthan, and, during the last October Navratra, to Baroda for the garba, which was utterly delightful. And this time, we were bowling along good roads—a vast improvement from what I remembered of the road twenty years ago between musically historic Maihar and Khajuraho. Maihar still preserves the home of Baba Allauddin Khan, where three Hindustani music legends had learnt from him—Pandit Ravi Shankar (sitar), Baba's daughter Vidushi Annapurna Devi (surbahar), and son Ustad Ali Akbar Khan (sarod). I had gone like an eager pilgrim to a temple of music and communal harmony. I was happy to have seen this historic house. But the roads had been so full of holes and bumps, outrageously deep and big, that I had called it 'road rafting' in despair, rubbing ointment afterwards on my battered limbs, and popping paracetamol.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> The invasions led to a catastrophic decline for the Hindi people. From being thought leaders, they were reduced to rustics, something they are still recovering from. Yet, they clung to their ancestral faith through the most discouraging circumstances

The drive to Sanchi was smooth, and everything was as amazing as I had anticipated. Ashoka had constructed the basic stupa in the 3rd century BCE, but the Hindu dynasties that followed him, such as the Shungas and Satavahanas, commissioned the site's development and all the Buddhist carvings there, including important Jatakas. Proof in stone of the facts, unlike Lefty fiction, that Hindus had chased Buddhists out. As we drew nearer, the GPS script changed from English to Sinhala. We saw Sinhalese groups in their pilgrim whites, for Sanchi is one of the holy places of Buddhism. Our own behaviour was respectful as we took in the sculptural marvels explained by our excellent Hindu guide, an MA in History. I was excited to see ancient carvings of Jatakas I knew, as well as the two holy epics, such as the *Mahakapi Jataka* and *Vessantara Jataka*, which are especially revered in Thailand, and elephant Jatakas, some of which I had retold in this column.

I also saw 23,000-year-old prehistoric cave drawings—yes, twenty-three thousand years old—at the Bhimbetka Caves, and the massive Bhojeshwar Mahadev temple, begun by Raja Bhoj Parmar in the 11th century, which is both incredible and humbling, even in its unfinished state.

Returning to Delhi NCR, I realised anew the actual impact of the invasions on the Hindi heartland. These were the people who composed the scriptures and exalted philosophy, invented the concept of zero, mathematics, chess, astronomy, yoga and Ayurveda, and built architectural wonders. The entire world uses Aryabhatta's numbers, which replaced cumbersome Roman numerals in the West, and Brahmagupta's computing, which paved the way for modern banking. Their mathematics triggered so much of contemporary science. The invasions led the Hindi people to a catastrophic decline. From being thought leaders, they were reduced to rustics, something they are still recovering from. Yet, how steadfastly they clung to their ancestral faith through the most discouraging circumstances. It was all they had. Lauding their incredible heroism, and not becoming chauvinistic like some of them, perhaps we non-Hindi people could politely, affectionately, help the Hindi bullies realise that 'conquering' the rest of us today won't rewrite the past, that we must advance positively together, with mutual respect.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Tariff emergency

Ref: *Tariff threat: Call CM's meet to propel reforms* (Aug 31). There is an ever-increasing need for cooperation between Centre and the states. The situation arising out of the US's imposed tariffs needs to be addressed as a national emergency, calling for a united effort. A strong and resilient Atmanirbhar Bharat is called for.
R Sriramprasad, email

Global unity

Ref: *Bhagwat consolidates idea of Bharat* (Aug 31). The Hindu thought of '*vasudhaiva kutumbakam*' applies more in the present day of conflicts, wars and polarisation than in any other time. Division creates fear while unity generates love. Differences have to be ignored, and the world must be treated as one family.
P Prema, Thanjavur

Cinematic integrity

Ref: *Whose movies are they anyway?* (Aug 31). It is deeply unfair that directors, writers and actors, who pour their artistic integrity into a project, have no authority when their work is edited. The lack of accountability and transparency makes it worse. Arbitrarily trimming films, or altering its emotional essence undermines the very soul of cinema.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

God's creation

Ref: *Converting weeds to wealth* (Aug 30). There is no such thing as waste or useless in God's creation. Behind every organism there is deep import. Every invasive plant, like hyacinth, does have its benign side, which must be probed to bring out its potential uses.
G Nataraja Perumal, email

Political farce

Ref: *Dhankhar seeks Raj MLA pension after VP resignation* (Aug 31). When Jagdeep Dhankar held the Vice President's post, he used to advise politicians to be humble and serve the people without much expectations. But after quitting his post, he does not want to give up any facilities and privileges.
S Ravindranath, email

Buddha's dhamma

Ref: *The Buddha and his impact on Brahminism* (Aug 31). The Buddha's teaching of non-violence started with the stoppage of animal sacrifice in large numbers for consumption by priests. When Buddhism spread faster, the Brahminical order, too, converted to vegetarianism, deeming themselves as pure Hindus.
Jayachandran C, Chennai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi
The @PMOIndia meeting with Chinese President today has failed to answer the critical questions that Indians have been looking for.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
After the expose of large-scale vote fraud in Mahadevapura Assembly @INCGujarat President @AmitChavdaINC has exposed large-scale fraud in Gujarat as well.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
It is very clear that while the Central government is tirelessly working to ease the financial burden on the common man, Congress and its I.N.D.I. Alliance partners are crying foul.

Bilateral meet ahead of SCO Summit sets tone for a forward-looking agenda for India-China relations & trade ties

Cross-border terror: Modi, Xi on same page

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a bilateral meeting ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping laid out a forward-looking agenda for India–China relations as they also focussed on combating cross-border terrorism and addressing the widening trade deficit.

"Cross-border terrorism was mentioned by the Prime Minister as a priority," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told a press briefing after the talks.

Modi underlined the shared impact of terrorism on both nations and called for mutual understanding and support. "We have received the understanding and cooperation of China on this issue," Misri added, in the context of growing regional security concerns.

Pakistan, a close ally of China, is a member of the SCO and India hold terrorism emanating out of the country as national security threat.

Trade imbalance also featured prominently in the discussions. "Yes, it is a fact that there is a large and ongoing trade deficit between India and China," Misri said. He said that the issue had been raised earlier during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Delhi and continues to be a part of strategic-level dialogue. "Growing trade and narrowing the deficit will contribute to a change in perception in the relationship," he stressed, adding that talks are ongoing across multiple channels—governments, businesses, and trading entities.

Misri said both leaders acknowledged the critical role India and China can play in stabilising global trade.

"On economic and trade relations, there was recognition of the role that the Indian and the Chinese economies can play in stabilising world trade," Misri said. He added, "Both leaders underlined the need, once again, to proceed from a political and strategic direction to reduce their bilateral trade deficit, facilitate bilateral trade and investment ties in both directions, and increase policy transparency and predictability," Misri said. He said both sides will see the resumption of direct flights soon.

MODI URGES FAIR ELECTIONS IN MYANMAR

Modi met with Myanmar's military leader, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Sunday and emphasised India's commitment to a "Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned peace process" where peaceful dialogue, not force, is the way forward, according to an External Affairs Ministry readout. During the bilateral meeting, both leaders reviewed cooperation across multiple fronts—development, defense, security, border management, and trade.

Amid Trump tariffs and ahead of festivals, Modi reiterates 'swadeshi' call

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday reiterated his call for use of indigenous products and urged people to take pride in "Swadeshi" (Made in India) products as the festive season approaches. His "vocal for local" call as the path to an "aatmanirbhar Bharat" comes amid the ongoing tariff dispute with the US.

The PM was addressing the people during his monthly radio broadcast "Mann Ki Baat".

Calling upon the public to embrace Swadeshi, he encouraged the use of indigenous products during upcoming festivals like Diwali and others.

"At this time, the whole country is celebrating the pomp and fervour of 'Ganesh Utsav'. The radiance of many festivals will spread in the coming days. You should never forget about Swadeshi during these festivals", the PM asserted.

The PM also expressed deep concern over the natural disasters that recently struck several hilly regions in India. "At places, homes were destroyed; at others, fields were submerged; families were ruined in large numbers. Elsewhere, bridges were swept away by gushing water; roads were washed away; people's lives were enmeshed in danger. These incidents have saddened every Indian", the PM said.

Despite these calamities, he highlighted some positive developments, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. He noted the successful organisation of the first day-night cricket match in Pulwama and the 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' at Dal Lake in Srinagar as signs of the region's progress toward prosperity and peace.

He also acknowledged the struggles and achievements of various individuals in different fields.

States/UTs told to update changes to redraw urban map ahead of Census '27

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

INDIA'S urban map is set to reflect the present day reality by capturing the existing facilities, as the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORGI) has shared a set of proforma with states and Union Territories (UTs) to update the changed composition of 'Urban Agglomerations' as part of soon to be launched exercise for Census -2027.

Officials said that the proforma issued by ORGI Mritunjay Kumar Narayan is designed in such a way to capture how urban centres across the country have expanded, merged or have been reclassified since the last Census benchmark in 2011.

Noting that the proforma circular was issued on August 22, the officials said, it contained the directives asking states and UTs to list "Urban Agglomerations (UA) of Census 2011, which will continue in Census 2027 without any jurisdictional change(s) after Census 2011", to propose "Urban Agglomeration (UA) of Census 2011 proposed to be dropped for Census 2027", and also to furnish "details of Town/Village/OG/Part OG of Census 2011, which has been merged with any of the units of the Urban Agglomeration after Census 2011".

Each of the proforma asks the states and the UTs for standardised identifiers and context including area in square kilometres and the relevant government notification or order in cases of mergers or jurisdictional changes, the officials said.

According to the proforma, cities whose footprints are unchanged since 2011 will be carried forward as-it-is and where municipal limits have expanded or nearby census towns and urbanised village outgrowths have effectively fused into the city, the officials said, adding that those mergers "will be recorded against the relevant UA, supported by notification numbers and dates". Urban expansion in India routinely spills past municipal limits into adjoining towns and urbanised village segments.

'Done our work. Rest up to govt': Rohini panel member

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AS the Centre is set to conduct a caste census along with the Census in 2027, Dr J K Bajaj, a member of the Rohini Commission, told this paper that unless the caste enumeration is carried out comprehensively, it wouldn't yield any results like the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) by the UPA government in 2011.

Bajaj was one of four members of the commission led by former Delhi High Court chief justice G. Rohini, which was tasked with the sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and ensuring equitable redistribution of quota benefits among all sub-communities.

Though the Commission submitted its report — after getting 14 extensions — to President Droupadi Murmu on 31 July 2023, the government told the Lok Sabha during the recently concluded Monsoon session that the ministry is yet to receive it.

When asked about the delay in implementation of the report, Bajaj said that one of the terms of reference of the commission was to look into the list of castes and remove the duplication and spelling issues. "Our report certainly will be useful for the census because first thing they need is to make a comprehensive list of castes. A clean list of castes will be useful for the census exercise," he said, adding that the sub-categorisation of OBCs is a different aspect.

"The caste census will help us understand which caste is getting what and their status in terms of education and economic status. We were always struggling to get data while we were in the commission. But this will give us more data on reservations in jobs and education," he said.

Emphasising the need to have a comprehensive list of castes, Bajaj said that the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census went to waste because of the lack of a properly drawn list of castes.

"The Commission did not refer to the SECC data, as the government told the Supreme Court that the data does not exist. If you want to do a good caste census, the first condition is that we make a comprehensive list not only of what the census already has, but also of the OBCs. The OBC castes need to be reconciled and cleaned up, and the castes for which no lists are available except those one by the British," he said, adding that otherwise, the 2027 census data will be less useful than the 2011 data.

When asked about the implementation of the commission report, he said, "We have done our work. The rest is up to the government, and it is a political decision".

In its recommendations, the commission is learnt to have adopted a balanced approach to ensure fair distribution of reservation benefits among various castes.

Online tool to manage blood pressure unveiled

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

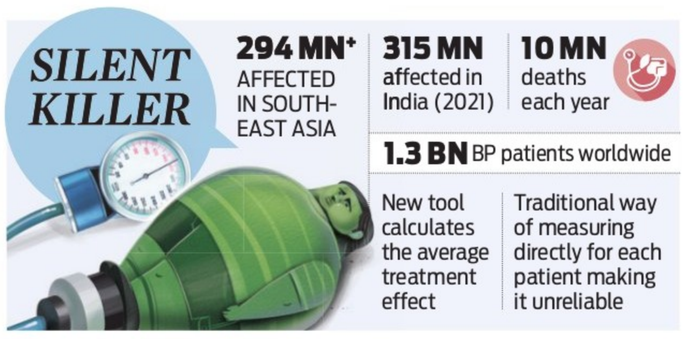
HIGH blood pressure is one of the world's biggest health challenges, affecting as many as 1.3 billion and leading to around 10 million deaths per year.

Now, a first-of-its-kind online tool built on data from nearly 500 randomised clinical trials in over 1 lakh people allows doctors to see by how much different medications are likely to lower blood pressure, a latest study published in the Lancet on Friday said.

The research said the Blood Pressure Treatment Efficacy Calculator, could transform how the condition is managed, allowing doctors to choose a treatment for each patient based on the degree to which they need to lower their blood pressure.

This could be good news for India. In 2021, India had an estimated 315 million people with high blood pressure (hypertension), according to a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF).

Often described as a silent killer as it does not cause any symptoms on its own, it can remain hidden until it leads to a heart attack, stroke or kidney disease. Fewer than one in five people with hypertension have it under control.


SILENT KILLER
294 MN+ AFFECTED IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
315 MN affected in India (2021)
10 MN deaths each year
1.3 BN BP patients worldwide
New tool calculates the average treatment effect
Traditional way of measuring directly for each patient making it unreliable

According to Dr Nelson Wang, cardiologist and Research Fellow at The George Institute for Global Health, said the finding is really important because every 1mmHg reduction in systolic blood pressure lowers your risk of heart attack or stroke by two percent. "But with dozens of drugs, multiple doses per drug, and most patients needing two or more drugs, there are literally thousands of possible options, and no easy way to work out how effective they are," he said.

Speaking about the research, Dr Mohammad Abdul Salam, Program Head, Cardiovascular Research, The George Institute for Global Health, Hyderabad, pointed out, "We cannot overlook the importance of controlling high blood pressure effectively and efficiently."

"Achieving optimal control requires a clear understanding of the efficacy of antihypertensive drugs at different doses and in various combinations. Without clarity on what we want to achieve and how to achieve it, we will not meet our targets. Guidelines define the target blood pressure, while our online tool helps identify which antihypertensive drugs are best suited to reach that target," he said.

The new tool helps overcome this challenge by calculating the average treatment effect seen across hundreds of trials. It also categorises treatments as low, moderate, and high intensity, based on how much they lower blood pressure (BP) – an approach already routinely used in cholesterol lowering treatment.

A single antihypertensive medication - still the most common way treatment is started - typically lowers systolic BP by just 8-9 mmHg, while most patients need reductions of 15-30 mmHg to reach ideal targets.

Dr Wang explained that while the traditional way of doing this is by measuring blood pressure directly for each patient and adjusting treatment accordingly, in fact BP readings are far too variable, or 'noisy', for it to be reliable.

"Blood pressure changes from moment to moment, day to day and by season – these random fluctuations can easily be as big or larger than the changes brought about by treatment," he said.

The next step is to test this new approach in a clinical trial, where patients will be prescribed treatments based on how much they need to lower their blood pressure, guided by the calculator.

According to WHO, hypertension, is a silent killer that affects over 294 million people in the South-East Asia Region.

Doctrine on high-impact missions for three forces to expand scope

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

INDIA'S newly released Joint Doctrine on Special Forces (JDSF), unveiled by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, sets forth guiding principles, operational strategies, common understanding and frameworks for enhanced interoperability and synergy among the commandos of the three services (the army's Para-SF, the navy's Marine Commandos and IAF's Garuds).

The JDSF enumerates high-impact missions for India's Special Forces, ranging from capturing enemy commanders, rescuing prisoners of war and executing air ambushes near enemy airfields, to disrupting enemy command systems and targeting high-value assets to cripple enemy economies. The doctrine was unveiled during the Ran Samvad military conclave in Indore last week.

The Special Forces' significance is highlighted by their role in both conventional and sub-conventional operations, with tasks extending across various domains. Their specialised training enables them to

execute high-risk operations in hostile or politically sensitive environments. By leveraging their agility, strategic reach and advanced skills, Special Forces generate disproportionate operational effects through precision engagement, deep insertion and unconventional methods.

Notably, the doctrine also incorporates roles such as collecting environmental data for strike planning, conducting reconnaissance for amphibious and airborne operations and engaging with indigenous forces for intelligence gathering.

Additionally, SF troops are tasked with post-strike damage assessment to gauge the effectiveness of their operations.

In Low-Intensity Conflict Operations (LICO) environments like terrorism and insurgency, the Special Forces are expected to carry out sustained offensive actions, including sabotage of key enemy installations and communication systems.

The doctrine emphasises the need for integrated training across all services. "To improve jointness and avoid duplication, existing Special Forces training schools need to be upgraded into Joint Service Training Institutes (JSTIs) without altering the command structures of each individual service," reads an excerpt from the doctrine.

The evolving nature of conflict, marked by rapid technological advancements and hybrid threats, necessitates this joint doctrinal framework.

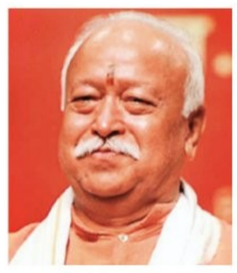
General Chauhan wrote, "In today's rapidly changing warfare environment, the necessity for specially trained, motivated and equipped troops capable of executing high-risk missions under adverse conditions is unequivocal."

INSIDER TRACK

Mama and the politics of devotion

Shivraj Singh Chouhan—fondly called Mama—has a knack for blending faith and timing. This week, he walked barefoot, sons in tow, carrying Ganapati Bappa Morya into his home. On its own, a heartwarming image. However, for observers, the timing was interestingly coincidental with murmurs about him as a frontrunner for the BJP's national president post. He has brushed off the speculation, saying his focus is on farmers and his ministerial duties. Still, some in the party insist his religious observances matter—each time he prays, a political door seems to open. One senior leader even mused, with a grin, "Mama mahir hai sambhavanaon ki rajniti mein"—Mama truly is a master of possibility politics. Is it a coincidence, or karma in action? Hard to say. With Mama, nothing ever feels entirely accidental.

Pauses speak louder than words



At the recent RSS conclave, Mohan Bhagwat drew a clear line between the Sangh and the BJP: They do their work, we do ours. Nothing more, nothing less. It was a diplomatic response to lingering rumours of interference. However, then came the line, tossed in casually yet carrying more weight than anything said officially: "If we were deciding, would it have taken so long?" The room laughed, but behind the chuckles was the unmistakable sense that he had revealed more than intended—or perhaps exactly what he intended. Some observers quietly wonder whether the Sangh is losing patience over the delay in the BJP's top-level decisions. Others think it was just Bhagwat being his cryptic self. Either way, the one-liner has sparked more debate than the entire speech preceding it.

A bureaucratic U-turn?

Earlier this year, the Centre was quite strict in denying states' requests to extend the service tenures of their Chief Secretaries and top police officers. Jharkhand, UP, and Bihar all had their proposals rejected. It seemed like a pattern—or even a message. This week, however, brought a quiet shift. Madhya Pradesh was allowed to extend Chief Secretary Anurag Jain's term by a year. Telangana's chief secretary, K. Ramakrishna Rao, also got an extra seven months. There's no official explanation why, which of course creates space for speculation. Some read this as a political favour, others view it as a simple reassessment. In Delhi, it's often difficult to determine whether the rules are being bent—or applied a little flexibly.

Mallick may replace George in Japan

Nagma Mohamed Mallick is likely heading to Japan as India's next ambassador, succeeding Sibi George. If confirmed, she'll be only the second woman ever to hold that role, significant in the still male-heavy corridors of global diplomacy. Her career spans an impressive arc: France, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Brunei, and Poland. She served in the PMO, managed Russia and Africa relations, and was Deputy Chief of Protocol—a first for a woman. Beyond her credentials, there's quiet assurance in her presence. She reads English literature, practises classical dance, speaks five languages, and balances diplomacy with wellness. Profiles like hers often shape the tone of relationships between nations.

Bamboo diplomacy at its best

In a very different corner of the world, something quietly hopeful unfolded this week. A delegation from Arunachal Pradesh went to Indonesia for a dialogue on sustainable bamboo practices. Backed by the Environmental Bamboo Foundation and the Indian Embassy in Jakarta, the visit focused on skill-building and knowledge-sharing—especially for women and youth from Northeast India. The idea is to turn bamboo into more than a plant—it's positioned as an engine for rural entrepreneurship and climate resilience. Bamboo charcoal, ethanol, design innovations—it's a rich space with global potential. The Regent of Ngada even hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation. A small gesture, yes, but one that signified genuine warmth. In a world often dominated by geopolitical tension, perhaps such grassroots collaboration is the more enduring form of diplomacy.

FULL DISCLOSURE

In a long-awaited move, the West Bengal School Service Commission on Saturday published the list of 1,804 teachers identified as 'tainted' in connection with the 2016 State Level Selection Test.

2 KILLED IN FIRECRACKER FACTORY IN BLAST IN LUCKNOW

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	25	Mumbai	28	27
Bhopal	27	23	Panaji	29	26
Jaipur	27	24	Patna	33	28
Amritsar	24	23	Lucknow	30	26
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	28	27
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	31	22
Srinagar	24	16	Chandigarh	24	23

● 47 columns, including Army Aviation, deployed to carry out relief ops ● Children in U'khand braving dangerous conditions to attend schools

Army rescues mom, 15-day-old baby stranded in Punjab flood

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A woman and her 15-day-old baby were rescued by the Army after being stranded in a Punjab village due to flooding.

A total of 47 columns, including Army Aviation and IAF Helicopters-based columns, have been deployed to carry out extensive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in parts of Punjab and Jammu that have been inundated by heavy flooding. Besides, the Border Security Force (BSF) rescued an elderly woman in need of medical treatment. A boat was sent to a government school for troop withdrawal due to a significant rise in water levels. But during the operation, a villager requested assistance to evacuate the seriously ill woman. Then the BSF personnel brought her on board and safely transported her to Pattan for medical treatment.

An official said that Sappers of the Kharga Corps received information that a new mother, who had undergone a C-section operation, was stuck in an inundated village along with her newborn. "The Army personnel swung into action and rescued them from the first floor of a building with an improvised ladder, and then evacuated them over three km on a boat, followed by 15 km in an Army vehicle to a safer place," he added.

Rescue operations under way in Punjab's Amritsar district on Sunday | EXPRESS

Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, Army Commander, Western Command, visited the forward areas affected by the recent floods in Jammu and Punjab to review the ongoing rescue operations. He was briefed on the extensive rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken by Army troops in close coordination with state administration, police, and civil authorities. Meanwhile, the incessant heavy rains, leading to overflowing Ravi, Beas, Sutlej and Ghaggar rivers, have worsened the flood situation, impacting 22 districts of the 23 and claiming 26 lives so far.

Approximately 1,312 villages have been impacted. CM Bhagwant Mann has written to PM Narendra Modi apprising him that Punjab is currently grappling with one of the worst flood disasters in decades, impacting about 1300 villages and affecting lakhs of people. Mann CM urged the PM to release ₹60,000 crore funds of the state, which he claims are "stuck" with the Centre.

State Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian says 1,312 villages have been impacted by floods across Punjab. He further added that so far, 14,936 people have been evacuated to safer places from flood-affected areas. The number of relief camps has also been increased alongside the evacuation drives. Currently, 122 relief camps are operational in affected districts, sheltering 6,582 affected people.

Situation worsens amid heavy rainfall

The flood situation in Punjab worsened on Sunday amid incessant rainfall, with the Ravi, Beas, Sutluj and Ghaggar rivers flowing in spate. So far, 26 people have died, 1,312 villages have been impacted, and standing crop over three lakh acres have been inundated.

Govt teams to visit states affected by rain, floods

The Centre has formed inter-ministerial central teams that will visit Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir to assess the damage caused by recent rains, cloudburst, floods, flash floods and landslides.

School kids at risk as roads blocked, towns submerged

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

RELENTLESS monsoon rains have unleashed a fresh wave of devastation across Uttarakhand, severing vital lifelines, submerging towns, and forcing school children to risk their lives daily.

The gravest concerns emerge from Uttarkashi's Cheenakholi region, where children from at least seven villages are braving dangerous conditions to attend school. "A child was swept away on Saturday, but was miraculously rescued by villagers," recounted Mahesh Prasad Nautiyal, former Pradhan of Cheenakholi village.

"With the bridge broken and tilted, students from Village Bon, Cheenakholi, Jeevanla, Jugaldi, and Panjiyala are literally putting their lives at risk in this extreme weather to reach the Government Inter College Bon."

Adding to the despair, Uttarkashi's Yamunotri region has seen the town of Syana Chatti submerged once again as the Yamuna River overflows its banks, with water flowing menacingly over the motor bridge. Panic has gripped residents, with the Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam bungalow and a school campus entirely underwater.

Connectivity remains a major challenge. Jai Prakash Singh Panwar, Uttarkashi's District Disaster Management Officer, said, "The Yamunotri National Highway remains blocked at Syana Chatti, Jarjargad, Banas, and Naradchatti. The Gangotri Highway is also closed near Dharasu Bend and Netala, with work ongoing to restore connectivity." The crucial Malari Highway, leading to the China border, has been cut off for the second time in just days. This latest disruption follows swiftly the reopening of the highway on Saturday.

11 safe after landslide blocks tunnel

Eight personnel have been safely rescued, and 11 others confirmed to be safe but still inside the tunnel, after a massive landslide struck the entrance of an underground NHPC power house tunnel in Dharchula.

Ganga hits warning mark

The deluge has sent the Ganga River surging downstream. In Rishikesh, it breached the warning mark (339.50 mt) by Sunday morning & reached 340.40 mt by afternoon.

GUWAHATI DIARY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR

Our correspondent in Guwahati

prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

Multimodal learning space at district library

Assam's Tinsukia has got a state-of-the-art multimodal learning space – 'Learn-o-verse' – at the district library, inaugurated recently by DC Swapneel Paul. With the state government declaring 2025 the "Year of Books," the initiative marks the transformation of the library's traditional reading area into an innovative learning universe—the first of its kind in any district library. The project seeks to mainstream reading and digital learning by creating a conducive environment for the upcoming generation. The Learn-o-verse offers a range of modern facilities, including a well-designed reading space, interactive learning panels and free Wi-Fi.

Comic Con India set to foray into Northeast

Comic Con India, among country's biggest pop culture celebrations, has announced its entry into Guwahati, marking its first-ever edition in the Northeast. The maiden Guwahati edition will be hosted on November 22 and 23, bringing the Comic Con experience to a fresh audience. This will bring Comic Con experience not only to Guwahati but will also cater to fans across the Northeast. "This expansion is our way of recognising the incredible potential and passionate fandom that the region has long shown for comics, cosplay, and pop culture. This move reflects Comic Con India's deeper connection with India's evolving youth culture," a statement said.

Fresh legal trouble brews for Syeda Hameed

Trouble is mounting for Delhi-based activist and former Planning Commission member Syeda Hameed over her recent remarks suggesting Bangladeshis can stay in Assam. Political outfit Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) have filed FIRs with the police in 16 places, including Guwahati, demanding her arrest. The AJP alleged that her "anti-Assam" and "communal" remarks were an insult to Assamese people. The party charged Hameed with "hurting the sentiments of the people of Assam, attempting to destroy communal harmony, and trying to provoke conflict between communities."

Life term to former cop for facilitating '03 suicide attack by Pak terrorist

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE Jammu and Kashmir High Court has awarded life sentence to former Station House Officer (SHO) of Sogam for his role in facilitating a fidayeen attack by a Pakistani terrorist in border district of Kupwara in 2003 in which two CRPF personnel were killed.

A division bench, comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar, overturned the trial court's acquittal of the then-SHO of Sogam Ghulam Rasool Wani. "We are absolutely clear that the findings of acquittal recorded in favour of Wani, not only was perverse, but the trial court had ignored the clinching evidence led in trial. The trial court proceeded to record acquittal of Wani on a reasoning, which on the face of it was palpably wrong, as it failed to appreciate the entire evidence led by prosecution in its proper perspective," read the order.

Wani was found guilty of criminal conspiracy under Section 120-B read with Section 302 of Ranbir Penal Code, equivalent to murder, for aiding a Pakistani terrorist in carrying out the suicide attack. The case stems from May 12, 2003 fidayeen attack carried out by JeM terrorist Mohammad Ibrahim in Kupwara in which two CRPF personnel were killed. It was found that the fidyaeen was ferried by Wani in his official vehicle.

"The then SHO was the only person who had full acquaintance of the terrorist... he tacitly consented to facilitate the attack. He consciously allowed the terrorist to play havoc," the court said.

2 CRPF jawans were killed

The case stems from May 12, 2003 fidayeen attack carried out by JeM terrorist Mohammad Ibrahim near SBI branch in Kupwara in which two CRPF personnel were killed and six others injured. It was found that the fidyaeen was ferried by the then SHO of Sogam in his official vehicle station and dropped near the SBI Branch.

EC seeks proof on Congress' 89L objections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Patna/New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday alleged that the Election Commission dismissed around 89 lakh complaints of irregularities flagged by its booth level agents (BLAs) during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. INC applies for deletion of 89 lakhs voters from draft list. However, the CEO, Bihar, asked for evidence with affidavit before taking action to delete such a large number of votes in Bihar.

At the state party headquarters, Sadaqat Ashram, in Patna, AICC media department chairman Pawan Khera alleged that the irregularities reported in the SIR were raising doubts over the intention of the EC, demanding that the entire exercise be conducted again.

Responding to the Congress allegations, the EC contended, "Till date, no BLA authorised by any district president of Congress has submitted any claim (Form 6) or objection (Form 7) on any name in the draft electoral rolls published on August 1 in the prescribed formed so far."

'Gandhi Se Ambedkar' rally in Patna today, SIR pitch up

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi, RJD's Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and a host of other top leaders of INDIA bloc will participate in a march in the state capital on Monday, marking the conclusion of 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' against ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and discrepancies in the exercise.

The march, 'Gandhi Se Ambedkar', will be taken out after 16-day-long yatra, that covered around 1,300-km and passed through 110 assembly constituencies in 25 districts. The yatra was taken out on August 17 from Sasaram to protest against the "vote theft in the garb of SIR".

Besides Rahul and Tejashwi, prominent leaders like CPM general secretary MA Baby, CPI general secretary D Raja, JMM chief Hemant Soren, TMC MP Yusuf Pathan and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut will participate in the march.

Bihar Congress president Rajesh Kumar said that the march would be taken out from near Gandhi statue at the Gandhi Maidan to Ambedkar statue near the Patna High Court. He said that the administration has already given permission for the march. "This is not a political event. We are taking out a peaceful march to fight for people's right to vote," he said.

A cutout of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on Sunday | PTI

The 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' evoked a huge response as Rahul, Tejashwi, CPI (M-L) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya and VIP's Mukesh Sahani accused the BJP of trying to steal votes in complicity with the Election Commission.

Leaders from across the country, including CMs of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh as well as senior leaders like Akhilesh Yadav and Priyanka Gandhi joined the yatra. "The participation of leaders from across the country has given strength to the fight against 'vote theft' by the BJP with the help of the EC," said AICC media chairman Pawan Khera in Patna.

As INDIA succeeded in showcasing unity during the yatra, the real test for them will begin during discussions on seat-sharing. The question is if the RJD, which had contested 144 seats and won 75, would concede the demand of allies. Indications are that RJD may settle at 135-140 seats and Congress 50-60.

No water from today, Maratha quota warrior to step up stir at Azad Maidan

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MANOJ Jarange's stir at Mumbai's Azad Maidan for Maratha quota entered the third day on Sunday, with the activist threatening to escalate his hunger strike from Monday by refusing to drink water, in an attempt to press for the inclusion of Marathas in the Other Backward Class (OBC) category.

He has been demanding 10% quota for Marathas and wants them to be recognised as Kunbis—an agrarian caste included in the OBC category—which will make them eligible for reservation in government jobs and education.

Jarange said that despite being on hunger strike, the state government has shown no seriousness in addressing their demand. "I have been consuming water during the hunger strike for the past two to three days, but the government is only delaying the issue. Therefore, from Monday, I will stop drinking water to intensify the protest," he said.

Supporters during a hunger strike by Manoj Jarange in Mumbai on Sunday | PTI

The activist argued that historically, Marathas and Kunbis were considered the same caste. Referring to the 1884 Hyderabad Gazette, he claimed that Marathas were classified as Kunbi in the census during the Nizam regime and the records were only altered post-Independence when the Marathwada region merged with Maharashtra. "The state government should accept the 1884 records as authentic, which will help Marathas from Marathwada secure OBC certificates," Jarange Patil demanded.

He also called for Sage-Soyere, the in-law relations in Kunbi-Maratha families, to be considered under the same category, allowing them to apply for OBC certificates.

Young volunteer teachers in Maoist crosshairs

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

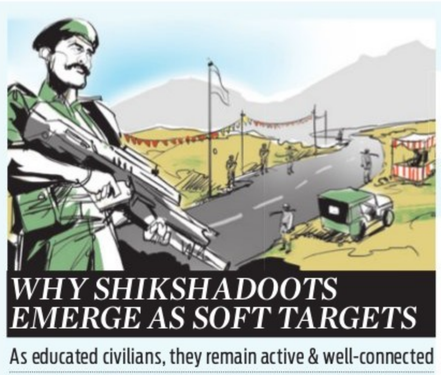
YOUNG volunteer teachers deployed in the Maoist-hit districts of conflict-torn south Bastar zone, referred to as 'Shikshadoots', are falling prey to the Red guerrillas, who suspect them to be informers for the local police and security forces.

As many as nine Shikshadoots have been killed by Maoists in Bastar in the last one year despite an aggressive anti-Naxal campaign that has put the Red Rebels on the back foot. Shikshadoots are locally engaged at a modest monthly emolument of ₹10,000 to teach in around 250 schools in the remote villages of Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada and Narayanpur, that were earlier shut down. The police say the Shikshadoots were killed to spread terror as the Naxalites suspect them to be police informers.

Owing to the state government's push for digital infrastructure development, several mobile towers have come up in the Bastar region in recent years. Since Shikshadoots keep mobile phones as a basic need for their professional engagement, CPI (Maoist) cadres see them as a threat. After all, these militants have a constant fear of facing surveillance by the security forces.

Another reason why Shikshadoots often end up as targets for Maoists is their easy access to government officials or police. As locals who often interact with District Reserve Guards (DRG) personnel routinely engaged in anti-Maoist operations, Shikshadoots have become a cause for concern for the militants. The Bastar police believe Maoists have been targeting volunteer teachers to register their presence in the region.

"Maoist cadres surrendering, getting caught or killed frustrate them, so they look for soft options," guerrilla warfare expert Brig (rtd) B K Ponwar explains.


WHY SHIKSHADOOTS EMERGE AS SOFT TARGETS
Routine use of phones creates suspicion
They assist as translators, coordinators, provide inputs about happenings
They are soft targets who cannot retaliate
As youths interact with locally raised DRG personnel
Maoists' attempt to unleash terror among local people
As educated civilians, they remain active & well-connected
Being local, they are often contacted by police, officials

Assam leader killed for joining Manipur meet

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

SUSPECTED militants have killed a Thadou community leader from Assam who had taken part in a peace meeting in Manipur capital Imphal on August 6.

Nehkam Jomhao (59), chairman of Assam's Thadou Literature Society was abducted from his residence at Chonghang Veng in Manja area of Karbi Anglong district on Saturday at around 7.30 pm and killed later. The police said six persons were arrested on Saturday night in this regard.

"The arrested accused have confessed to the crime," Karbi Anglong Superintendent of Police Sanjib Saikia told this newspaper. The body of the victim is yet to be recovered.

7 dead
71 wounded as Sudan's RSF shells besieged city

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	23	SNY	Los Angeles	27	17	SNY
Colombo	31	27	LC	Melbourne	16	6	SNY
Dhaka	32	27	LR	Moscow	28	16	LC
Dubai	44	35	SNY	New York	32	22	SNY
Houston	35	26	SNY	Singapore	34	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	23	SNY	Toronto	29	15	LC
London	30	19	TDS	Washington	36	25	SNY

Israel kills top Hamas voice, no plan to discuss ceasefire

Security cabinet meets on Gaza offensive as at least 43 Palestinians killed in fresh strikes; Hamas silent on Abu Obeida's reported death

DEIR AL-BALAH

The Israeli military announced on Sunday that it killed a long-time spokesperson for Hamas' armed wing, as the country's security cabinet met to discuss the expanding offensive in some of Gaza 's most populated areas. There were no plans to discuss negotiations for a ceasefire at the meeting, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak with the media.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz identified the spokesperson as Abu Obeida, the nom de guerre for the official who represented Hamas' Qassam Brigades. He was killed over the weekend. Hamas has not commented on the claim.

Obeida's last statement was issued Friday as Israel began the initial stages of the new offensive and declared Gaza City a combat zone. His statement said the militants would do their best to protect living hostages but warned that they would be in areas of fighting. He said the remains of dead hostages would "disappear forever." Israel's military said the spokesperson, whom it identified as Hudahaifa Kahlout, had been behind the release of videos showing hostages as well as footage of the Hamas-led attack that sparked the war.

At least 43 Palestinians were killed since Saturday, most of them in Gaza City, according to local hospitals. Shifa Hospital, the territory's largest, said 29 bodies were brought to its morgue, including 10 people killed while seeking aid and others struck across the city. "Where are the resistance fighters that (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu claims he is bombing? Does he consider stones resistance fighters?" said a relative of one of the dead at Shifa Hospital, who did not give her name. She said they would not be displaced.

Hospital officials reported 11 other fatalities from strikes and gunfire. Al-Awda Hospital said seven of them were civilians trying to reach aid.

Witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire on crowds in the Netzarim Corridor, an Israeli military zone that bisects Gaza. Israel for weeks has been operating on the outskirts of Gaza City and the Jabaliya refugee camp to prepare for the offensive's initial stages. The military has intensified air attacks on coastal areas of the city, including Rimal.

In Rimal, quiet Palestinians looked through the rubble after a strike, some venturing into the upper floors of shattered buildings that were still standing.

Seven more Palestinian adults died of malnutrition-related causes over the last 24 hours, Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday. That brought the adult death toll from malnutrition-related causes to 215 since June when the ministry started to count them, it said, and 124 children have died of malnutrition-related causes since the war began. *AP*

Displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza Strip move with their belongings along the Sea Road, near Wadi Gaza | AP

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 696

TOLL SO FAR
63,068

MACRON'S DECISION TO RECOGNISE PALESTINE IRKS ISRAEL AND U.S.

French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to recognise a Palestinian state, prompting similar moves from other Western nations, angered Israel and its US ally by putting a two-state solution back at the heart of diplomatic efforts to end the devastating war in Gaza. In a letter to Netanyahu, Macron said France backs a Palestinian state, calling it essential to Israel's lasting security.

AID FLOTILLA SET TO SAIL FOR GAZA

A flotilla carrying humanitarian aid and activists, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, prepared Sunday to leave from Barcelona to try to "break the illegal siege of Gaza", organisers said. The vessels will set off from the Spanish port city to "open a humanitarian corridor and end the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people", said the Global Sumud Flotilla — sumud is the Arabic term for "resilience".

HOUTHIS TO ESCALATE ATTACKS ON TEL AVIV

The leader of Yemen's Huthi rebels said on Sunday his group would keep launching attacks against Israel, a day after confirming that an Israeli strike had killed their government's prime minister. An attack on Thursday killed the Huthis' prime minister, Ahmed Ghaleb Nasser Al-Rahawi, and other officials, the Iran-backed group has said.

Norway's PM Jonas Gahr Store

10 BN POUNDS DEAL

Norway chooses British warships to counter Russian threat

LONDON

NORWAY has agreed to buy at least five new British anti-submarine ships in a deal valued at 10 billion pounds ($13.5 billion) as the two nations deepen their cooperation to counter Russian operations in the seas along NATO's northern flank.

They said Sunday that Britain will supply Norway with the Type 26 frigates, creating a joint force of eight British and at least five Norwegian ships that will operate jointly in Northern Europe.

The ships are built by a group of companies led by UK-based BAE Systems.

"Our navies will work as one, leading the way in NATO, with this deal putting more world-class warships in the North Atlantic to hunt Russian submarines, protect our critical infrastructure, and keep both our nations secure," British Defense Secretary John Healey said in a statement.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has spurred the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's European members to increase defense spending amid concerns that they could be Moscow's next target.

The Type 26 frigate is designed for anti-submarine warfare and high-intensity air defense, according to BAE. Australia and Canada have already agreed to buy variants of the Type 26 for their navies.

The deal is expected to support 4,000 jobs and 400 companies in Britain.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said the NATO member needed the frigates because it "is facing its most serious security situation since World War II."Norway also considered ships made by the US, Germany and France, but chose the UK because of the countries' historic links, Støre said. "Norway and Great Britain are close allies with common interests and very close ties," Store said. *AP*

Indonesia cuts lawmakers' perks amid deadly protests

JAKARTA

INDONESIA cut financial perks for lawmakers on Sunday, after at least five people were killed in protests against economic hardship that have escalated into anger against police.

Southeast Asia's biggest economy was rocked by protests in major cities in recent days after footage spread of a motorcycle taxi driver being run over by a police vehicle at a rally against lucrative perks for lawmakers.

"The parliament leadership conveyed that they would revoke several policies, including the amount of allowance for lawmakers, and a moratorium on overseas visits," President Prabowo Subianto said, without specifying which allowance he was referring to. The ex-general urged peaceful protests but said the state must act against looting or destruction.

"The rights to peaceful assembly should be respected and protected. But we cannot deny that there are signs of actions outside the law, even against the law, even leaning towards treason and terrorism," Prabowo said in a speech in Jakarta. *AP*

Russia, China reject western sanctions, call for new order

TIANJIN

RUSSIA and China have taken a common stand against "discriminatory sanctions" that hinder the socioeconomic development of BRICS member countries, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. Putin, who arrived here to attend the Shanghai Cooperation (SCO) summit, made the remarks in an interview with China's state-run Xinhua news agency.

He said that Russia and China are paying special attention to mobilising additional resources for critical infrastructure projects, and stand united in strengthening BRICS' ability to address pressing global challenges.

The Russian president said that Moscow and Beijing take a "common stand against discriminatory sanctions that hinder the socioeconomic development" of BRICS members and the world at large.

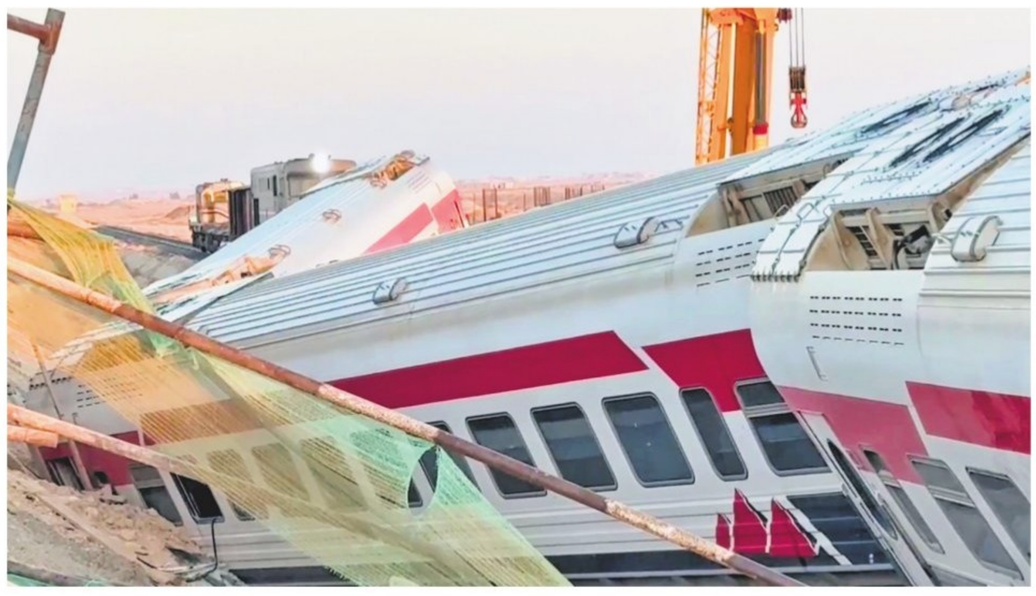
Putin's remarks came in the backdrop of US President Donald Trump threatening the member countries of BRICS with 10 per cent tariffs.

BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as its new members. In the written interview with Xinhua, Putin said Russia and China support reforming the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

He added that the two sides share the view that a new financial system must be built on the principles of "openness and true equity", which can provide equal and non-discriminatory access to its tools for all countries and reflect the real standing of member states in the global economy.

"We seek progress for the benefit of all humanity. I am confident that Russia and China will continue to work together towards this noble goal, aligning our efforts to ensure the prosperity of our great nations," he said. Putin will meet Xi and attend China's WWII victory parade marking 80 years since Japan's defeat. *AP*



FROM COAST TO CATASTROPHE

Wreckage lies scattered after a passenger train derailed in western Egypt on Saturday, killing at least three and injuring 94. The train, en route to Cairo from the coastal province of Matrouh, saw seven wagons leave the tracks—two overturning. The tragedy adds to Egypt's grim record of deadly rail accidents in recent years | AP

Court halts Trump's deportation of kids mid-flight

HARLINGEN

AFTER the US government loaded children onto planes overnight to be sent back to their native Guatemala, a federal judge temporarily blocked the flights — with the youngsters still inside — as their attorneys said authorities were violating U.S. laws and sending vulnerable kids into potential peril.

The extraordinary drama played out over predawn hours on a U.S. holiday weekend and vaulted from tarmacs in Texas to a courtroom in Washington. It was the latest showdown over the Trump administration's crackdown on immigration — and the latest high-stakes clash between the administration's enforcement efforts and legal safeguards that Congress created for vulnerable migrants.

For now, hundreds of Guatemalan children who arrived unaccompanied will stay while the legal fight plays out over the coming weeks.

"I do not want there to be any ambiguity," said Judge Sparkle L Sooknanan, who said her ruling applies broadly to Guatemalan minors who arrived in the US without their parents or guardians. Minutes after she wrapped up a hastily scheduled hearing Sunday afternoon, five charter buses pulled up to a plane parked at the border-area airport in Harlingen, Texas. Hours earlier, authorities had walked dozens of passengers — perhaps 50 — toward the plane in a part of the airport that's restricted to government planes, including deportation flights. The passengers were wearing colored clothing that is used in government-run shelters for migrant children.

The US government insists it's reuniting the Guatemalan children with parents or guardians who sought their return. Lawyers for at least some of the minors say that's nonsense and argue that in any event, authorities still would have to follow a legal process that they did not.

Sunday's hearing was one of several emergency requests filed nationwide. *AP*

Mayor bars police from immigration enforcement

Chicago: The mayor of Chicago pushed back Saturday against what he called the "out-of-control" Trump administration's plan to surge federal officers into the nation's third-largest city, which could take place within days. The Chicago Police Department will be barred from helping federal authorities with civil immigration enforcement or any related patrols, traffic stops and checkpoints during the surge, according to an executive order signed by Mayor Brandon Johnson.

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

HOUSE PROPOSES VAT CUT TO EASE PUBLIC BURDEN

Mukhamad Misbakhun, Chair of Commission XI of Indonesia's House of Representatives, proposed lowering the VAT rate from 11% to 10% to ease financial pressure on the public and boost consumer spending. He noted the cut might have limited immediate effect but could be balanced by higher transaction volumes. Misbakhun also suggested taxing some agricultural products at 8% to support the sector. Emphasising the importance of fiscal policies for lower-income groups, he aligned his proposal with President Prabowo's goal to reduce the tax burden and sustain economic resilience.

MALAYSIA

TAN-THINAAH TAKE SILVER AT WORLDS

Pearly Tan and M Thinaah clinched a historic silver at the 2025 BWF World Championships, narrowly losing to China's top seeds in a thrilling final. The duo became the first Malaysian women's doubles pair to reach the final, marking their best-ever finish and winning hearts with their spirited performance.

THAILAND

CRANE FALLS ON RAMA II ROAD, INJURES 3

A construction crane collapsed onto Rama II Road early Sunday, injuring three people and causing major disruption. The crane fell while lifting a steel beam for an elevated expressway, crashing across lanes near kilometre marker 26+500, just before Central Mahachai. The operator was trapped inside and rescued, while a pickup truck was hit by falling debris. A power outage and traffic delays followed as the crane struck electrical lines, sparking fires. Police are investigating the cause, questioning the operator and eyewitnesses. Roads were partially reopened by 5.40am.

Lebanon urges dialogue on Hezbollah arms

BEIRUT

LEBANON's parliament speaker on Sunday criticised Washington's push to quickly to disarm the Hezbollah militant group, and called instead for a calm national dialogue to determine "the fate of those weapons."

Nabih Berri, a key ally of Hezbollah who was instrumental in negotiating with Washington to reach a ceasefire that ended a monthslong war between Israel and Hezbollah in November, made the remarks in an address to the country commemorating the disappearance of prominent Shite cleric Moussa al-Sadr.

The Lebanese military will soon present a plan to the government on disarming Hezbollah by the end of the year, after President Joseph Aoun and most of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam's government endorsed a proposal by US envoy Tom Barrack.

Both since coming to power earlier this year have vowed to monopolise all weapons in the hands of the Lebanese military and security agencies. Hezbollah leader Sheikh Naim Kassim has refused to discuss the matter of the Iran-backed group and political party's weapons until the Israeli military withdraws from five hilltops in southern Lebanon it controls and stops its near-daily strikes on Lebanon. "We are open to discussing the fate of these weapons, which we Lebanese see as honorable, within the framework of a calm and consensual dialogue," said Berri. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

France rejects US bid for Greenland control

PARIS: French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot declared Greenland "is not for sale" during a visit to Nuuk, criticising US intentions to control the Arctic territory. Echoing President Macron, Barrot emphasised respect for Greenland's sovereignty amid US President Trump's interest in the mineral-rich island. Barrot reaffirmed France and Europe's support for Denmark and Greenland's freedom, highlighting concerns over covert US influence operations in the region.

300 employees online gaming app Mobile Premier League (MPL) will lay off following the government's ban on paid online games, according to a report

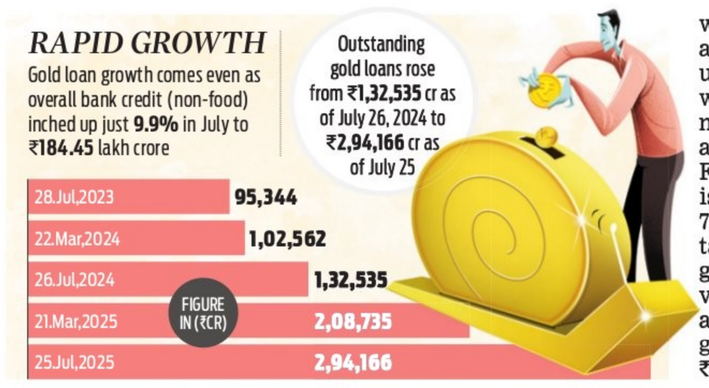
Loans against gold jump 122% in one year

This shows rising indebtedness of households as these loans are for consumption and are of small ticket size

BENN KUCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE eased regulatory environment coupled with the rising prices of gold has resulted in lending against jewellery zooming 122% in the last one year with outstanding gold loan at ₹2,94,166 crore as of July 25, 2025 against ₹1,32,535 crore in July 26, 2024. This also shows the rising indebtedness of the households as typically gold loans are for consumption and are of small ticket size. For lenders this is a fully secured product as it is 115% asset-backed.

This growth comes even as overall bank credit (non-food) inched up only 9.9% in the month to ₹184.45 lakh crore, according to the latest RBI data for the fortnight ending July 26. As per data, outstanding gold loans were at ₹1,32,535 crore as of July 26, 2024 and ₹2,08,735 crore as of March 21, 2025, which rose to ₹2,94,166 as of July 25, 2025, a growth of 122% YoY and 41% so far this fiscal.


RAPID GROWTH
Gold loan growth comes even as overall bank credit (non-food) inched up just 9.9% in July to ₹184.45 lakh crore
Outstanding gold loans rose from ₹1,32,535 cr as of July 26, 2024 to ₹2,94,166 cr as of July 25
28.Jul,2023 95,344
22.Mar,2024 1,02,562
26.Jul,2024 1,32,535
21.Mar,2025 2,08,735
25.Jul,2025 2,94,166
FIGURE IN (₹CR)

The surge in gold loans coincide with prices soaring by over 40% in the past one year. 24-carat gold is now priced over ₹1.05 lakh for 10 gm. On June 10, 2025, the RBI had introduced a comprehensive regulatory framework for lending against gold and silver collateral, harmonising the treatment of loans secured by gold and silver collateral across all types of regulated entities, ensuring greater prudence, borrower protection, and operational transparency.

The most important change is flexibility in terms of the loan-to-value ratio (LTV), which was earlier capped at 75% for all lenders. Now, for gold loans up to ₹2.5 lakh, LTV is 85%, which means borrowers can now borrow a higher percentage of the gold's value as a loan. For loans up to ₹2.5–5 lakh, LTV is 80% and above ₹5 lakh it is 75%, which means if you are taking more than ₹5 lakh in gold loan, your jewellery will be valued only 75% of the monthly average gold/silver price as eligible for loan. Also, for under ₹2.5 lakh loan, lenders need not conduct a detailed credit appraisal of the borrower.

Meanwhile, personal loans growth fell YoY to 11.9% to ₹15.36 lakh crore, from 14% a year ago, due to moderation in growth of other personal loans (8.1% vs 12.7%), vehicle loans (8.9% to ₹6.45 lakh crore) vs 14.6%). On the other hand, housing loans grew 9.6% to ₹30.81 lakh crore in the reporting month as against a growth of 12.8% in the year-ago period. Total growth in credit card outstanding fell to 5.6% to ₹2.91 lakh crore as of July 25, as against a growth of 22% in the year-ago period. In July, advances to agriculture and allied activities grew 7.3% to ₹23.14 lakh crore, more than having from 18.1% or ₹22.87 lakh crore during the same period a year ago. Growth in credit to industry moderated to 6% to ₹39.38 lakh crore from 10.2% in July 2024. Credit to micro and small, and medium industries continued to grow at a robust pace of 21% and 14.7%, respectively.

Among major industries, outstanding credit to engineering, vehicles, vehicle parts and transport equipment, rubber, plastic and their products and gems & jewellery recorded healthy on-year growth.

IN CONVERSATION

UMESH REVANKAR
Executive vice-chairman, Shriram Finance

'Meaningful lowering of funding cost only in three-four quarters'

UMESH Revankar, executive vice-chairman of Shriram Finance — the largest vehicle financing non-banking lender — is hopeful of high double-digit growth this fiscal and closing the year with a ₹3 lakh crore loan book, up from current ₹2.72 lakh crore. In an interview with **Benn Kochuveedan**, he calls for a dedicated refinancing window for NBFCs, similar to how housing finance companies have access to the NHB or further strengthening Sidbi's existing refinancing programmes.

What is holding back corporates from investing, leave alone taking credit from financial institutions?
Urban demand has slowed down a little but rural demand has been good. For us, overall credit growth has been on expected lines. We are targeting 15% but grew 16% in Q1. So, we are comfortable with the growth rate as rural demand is still holding up.

Yes, it is a fact that capacity utilisation levels have not really grown. Normally, in the past, manufacturers would go for expansion once they reach 70-75% capacity. This time around, they are at 80-85% but still not going in for expansion. Perhaps, the reason is that disruptions have become more frequent, and as a result, no one is willing to commit to long-term investments. That could be the underlying cause for missing capex cycle by private sector.

Given 50% tariffs have already kicked in, we will closely monitor the situation and observe how exporters, especially those dealing in agricultural produces, cash crops, fisheries, and prawns, to understand how they are affected.

But that is not something that will impact your business...
Exports involve movement of trucks. Ultimately, for us, economic activity is important. There has to be transportation, logistics.

Exports involve movement of trucks. Ultimately, for us, economic activity is important. There has to be transportation, logistics

How is your business doing in terms of loan disbursals, asset quality, etc?
We are comfortable as rural and semi-urban demand is good. Urban demand will depend on real estate. How the urban real estate sector develops remains to be seen. If bank rates fall further, it can boost real estate sector. We have set a 15% loan growth target but in Q1 we grew at 16% and Q2 is trending at that level. Asset quality has been good so far. We are quite comfortable even though there was a slight increase in stage 2 assets but that is common for the segment and not a cause for concern.

Can the proposed GST rationalisation help in reviving demand, investments?
We will have to wait and see how GST changes are implemented. For example, home/office decor is taxed at 18%, which pushes people to prefer cash transactions. What sector needs is GST rationalisation and simplification. Once that happens, it will be easier for us to assess impact and take a call on future investments.

Has your funding cost come down since the RBI reversed the curbs on bank lending to NBFCs?
Our cost of funds has eased a bit, and so the incremental borrowing cost. Overall book cost is still high, and it typically takes three-four quarters of incremental borrowings at lower rates before we see a meaningful impact at the book level. Since about one-third of the borrowings get churned every year, the full transmission usually takes close to three years.

Since the rate cuts have happened in the past few months, we expect to see a visible improvement by the year-end. Our book cost has come down by around 6 bps in the first quarter, and at this run rate we should see a 24–25 bps reduction by year-end. Our bank loans average at 8.38% now and 8.85% in the book.

How good is liquidity? Are you looking at more forex borrowings?
As of June 2025, our AUM was ₹2.72 lakh crore and liabilities were at ₹2.46 lakh crore. We are not planning any fresh forex loans this year. We have enough liquidity. Even today, around 20% of the book, roughly ₹40,000 crore, is forex borrowings, either through bonds or loans.

MONEY-WISE

CRICKET LEGENDS & ART OF INVESTING

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

TARIFFS, secondary tariffs, Russian oil import, FII outflows, DFI inflows, geo-political re-alignments and whether the equity market is headed for a deep correction are some of the topics currently ruling the media waves.

As an avid Test cricket buff, I was fascinated by the ability of the two Indian Test batting legends, Sunil Gavaskar and Rahul Dravid to stay focused and keep redundant visuals and noises out of their line of vision and thought to wear down the best of bowlers even in adverse batting conditions and score heavily.

Their approach can be of great utility to investors in India, and even more so at this point in time when there is an overdose of high decibel social media views and views passed off as news continuously on even the so-called 'real' media.

As one interested in behavioral studies of investors and how it impacts their investment decision-making, I have observed a particularly unique phenomenon of extreme bias in investor behavior over the last several years. The plethora of views and seemingly never-ending din among those who support and oppose the ruling party has been mind-boggling.

During this period, I have witnessed otherwise savvy investors from among those who oppose the ruling dispensation miss out on good investment opportunities and returns, simply because of their belief that nothing good can happen during the tenure of this government.

At the other end of the spectrum, even when segments of the equity market periodically sail into unjustifiable valuation levels, those that support the ruling dispensation refuse to acknowledge that abnormal stock price run-ups are detrimental to the overall health of the market and not necessarily a reflection of the capability of the government.

What is most astonishing is that amidst this tunnel-vision-like approach that dissects every announcement, major or minor of the government, it ends with a round of cheers or ridicule depending on the side of the divide the investor is on.

Agreed, there are multiple global factors like the semi-permanent US-China stand-off and now, the new Indo-US trade deal impasse against the shadow of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, that are as if not more potent than the domestic concerns like inflation and an uneasy cease-fire with a belligerent Pakistan, which have ensured that the markets remain volatile.

However, just as life cannot come to a complete standstill in such scenarios, one cannot altogether stop investing either but instead, stay mindful of the risks and calibrate one's portfolio to factor in both, a positive and negative outcome.

So, simply learn to turn a deaf ear to the media driven din and don't let it cloud your investment decision-making process. Instead, like the Test batting legends I mentioned at the start of this column, stay focused on your target of wearing down the adverse conditions and scoring heavily with the small difference being that, for investors, it will be on the portfolio front.

MONEY MATTERS

INVESTMENT: HOW DATA TELLS YOU STORIES

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

A financial inclusion revolution is underway in India. Numerous studies indicate a surge in the rate of conversion from savings deposits to equity investments. Records of demat accounts, mutual fund flows, and preferences for equity investments show the confidence households have in the prospects for the Indian economy. The latest monthly bulletin of the Reserve Bank of India highlights one multi-year study that shows a surge in equity inflows through mutual funds when prospects for India's growth are bright.

When prospects are relatively bleak, inflows into mutual funds weaken. The study also identifies three factors that discerning investors consider. These include an increase in demat accounts, fixed deposit rates and business confidence. All of that has translated into mutual funds managing a record of assets today compared to 15 years ago. If you look at the stock market, several asset management companies that manage your money have listed themselves. Their shares are trading at a multi-year high.

The growth in absolute cumulative monthly and total inflows into mutual funds does not tell you the whole story. The top valuation for mutual fund company shares in the stock market is not a result of the past. That is due to the low penetration of mutual funds in India compared to other rich nations. The same study shows that in the US, mutual fund ownership is 150% of GDP, compared to barely 15% in India. That shows the potential in India. The other issue is about the geographic spread in India. Mutual Fund holdings are mainly concentrated in the Western region. For example, Maharashtra accounts for a quarter of all the mutual fund holdings. That again presents an opportunity for mutual fund companies and their distributors to expand their reach.

The data suggests a lot is happening in the space of financial distribution and inclusion. However, the same bulletin includes the latest monetary policy report and the state of the economy review, which highlights worries about urban consumption. "Urban consumption revival, especially discretionary spending, is tepid," it said. "During July, urban demand moderated with domestic air passenger traffic weakening due to seasonal factors and runway maintenance. Retail sales of passenger vehicles also declined," it added. That means businesses would have to work harder to get the urban consumer to spend.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

If you analyse the RBI Bulletin data for personal loans, it will show that the demand for home loans is slowing, while there is a rise in the credit card outstanding and loans against gold and jewellery. There is a year-on-year decline in the demand for loans in the consumer durables segment. These factors suggest a weakness in urban markets where you are not willing to spend money. That is bad news for manufacturers in those sectors. Consumer sales of air conditioners and refrigerators in urban markets are tepid, according to most companies that have announced quarterly results.

Making sense of information

If you are new to the world of investing, the monthly RBI bulletin gives you a peek into the state of the economy. Nearly two-thirds of India's gross domestic product is due to consumption. The information tracks monthly data on retail loans and other leading indicators that show the progress of economic activity. There are new ways to measure economic growth.

The trend in monthly goods and services tax collection, e-way bills businesses pay to move goods across states, UPI, and other digital payment instrument transactions can give you a sense of the economic activity. These numbers must show a rising trend for the economy to perform well. If they show a monthly declining trend, that means the economy is likely to slow down. Those of you who are young can start building your own intelligence whiteboard and observe segments that could help you build a portfolio of meaningful assets.

Should NAA be revived under GST 2.0?

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

AS India prepares for a major GST 2.0 overhaul, several opposition states have demanded introduction of anti-profiteering mechanisms amid concerns that companies may pocket tax benefits instead of passing them on to consumers.

At a recent GST meeting, states such as Kerala, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu sought a stronger deterrent framework. "There have been instances in the past where the benefits of rate cuts haven't been passed to the consumers," said K N Balagopal, Kerala's finance minister. The debate has revived discussions around now-defunct National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA), which was introduced in 2017 under Section 171 of the CGST Act. Its mandate was to ensure that businesses reflected GST rate cuts and input tax credit (ITC) benefits in retail prices. However, the NAA was discontinued due to criticism for delayed probe and unclear methodology for quantifying profiteering.

"The earlier framework under the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) was criticised for its protracted investigations, lack of clarity in methodology, and perception of being more punitive than corrective. However, the principle behind such a mechanism—ensuring that tax reductions and input tax credits benefit end consumers—remains sound and relevant," said Rajat Mohan, Senior Partner, AMRG & Associates.

Cases of non-compliance were frequent. Several consumer goods majors — including Hindustan Unilever, Jubilant Foodworks, Patanjali, Reckitt Benckiser, and Procter & Gamble — faced action. The latest case was closed in August 2025, when Subway franchisee Urban Essence was found guilty of profiteering ₹5.47 lakh by withholding tax-cut benefits.

After late 2022, anti-profiteering cases were handed over to the Competition Commission of India (CCI). But in mid-2024, CCI backed out, saying that "anti-profiteering was not its core function," transferring adjudication to the GST Appellate Tribunal. With the sunset clause ending new complaints from April 2025, experts warn that weak enforcement risks emboldening businesses.

"With the NAA replaced by the GST Appellate Tribunal, industry hopes for a more pragmatic adjudication. The government may not return to strict price control, but will certainly want tax benefits to reach consumers. A structured methodology to quantify profiteering, coupled with heavy penalties for non-compliance, cannot be ruled out. Even selective price fixation for essentials could be on the table to keep inflation in check," said Abhishek Rastogi, Partner, Khaitan & Co.

Why economists are urging caution despite strong GDP growth in first qtr

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

DESPITE India's economy grew stronger-than-expected at 7.8% in the first quarter of FY26, economists caution that the growth print looks brighter than the underlying reality — thanks largely to a sharp drop in the GDP deflator from 3.4% in the previous quarter to 1% in Q1 of FY26, lowest in 6 years.

The GDP deflator, which adjusts nominal GDP for inflation, fell sharply as both wholesale price index (WPI) and consumer price index (CPI) inflation moderated in April-June. This pushed real GDP growth higher, even as nominal GDP growth slowed to 8.8% from 10.8% in the previous quarter.

"Slowdown in inflation has provided double support to real GDP, first by slowing deflator growth and second by supporting producer margins via lower input costs," said Gaura Sen Gupta, chief economist at IDFC First Bank. She added that subdued direct tax collections, weak corporate sales growth, and soft credit expansion suggest nominal GDP may be a more accurate gauge of underlying economic momentum.

The impact of low deflator was mainly visible in the services sector, which grew 9.3% YoY as against 7.3% in the previous quarter. "Deflators narrowed considerably in the quarter (1% vs 3.4% earlier), reflecting slowdown in WPI and CPI inflation. This was most evident in heavyweight service sector performance," said Radhika Rao, executive director and senior economist at DBS Bank. Economists warn this technical boost may fade.

"The super growth surprise of 7.8% emanates from soft deflator-led technical boost," said Madhvi Arora, chief economist at Emkay Global. "Nominal GDP has dropped to 8.8%, and we expect it to slow further to 7.6-7.9% in FY26, which has serious implications for tax collections, fiscal deficit, and corporate earnings."

Piastri wins Dutch GP after Norris breakdown

Oscar Piastri steered clear of trouble to win the Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday after teammate Lando Norris' Formula 1 title chances took a heavy blow when his McLaren broke down. Norris was chasing Piastri late in the race when the British driver reported a 'funny' smell in his cockpit. Smoke poured from the back of the car and he had to stop.

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra in action during the Diamond League final | AFP

Neeraj to lead India's challenge at Tokyo Worlds

CHANDRA PRABHU @Chennai

TWO-TIME Olympic Medallist and defending world champion Neeraj Chopra will lead India's 19-member team at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo which begins from September 13. He comes on the back of a modest performance in the Diamond League final in Zurich recently, finishing second with a throw of 85.01 metres. He breached the 90-metre-mark in Doha earlier this year and has consistently thrown around that mark this season. This performance, however, is uncharacteristic of Chopra. Athletics Federation of India (AFI) spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla said that the star thrower will work on his timing. "He had a little timing issue which he himself has gone on the record to say. He has slightly made adjustments from what I understand on his approach and throw. Once he gets the timing right, he is going to be absolutely fine in the World Championships," he said in the press conference announcing the list of qualified athletes on Sunday.

The composition of the squad has varied across new events. Long and middle distance disciplines and sprint disciplines are some of the events India have not had significant presence. "This is attested to our gradual increase in pace and the number of events in which these athletes have participated," Sumariwalla added. He explained the reasons behind the growth of runners in this country. "For long and middle distance runners we brought in Scott Simmons, who has his training program in Colorado Springs, USA. Before his appointment, the load taken by long distance runners remained at around 100-120 kilometres a week, but since his arrival that has gone up to 280 kilometres a week. If you see Gulveer Singh run he has improved his timing. The more you run, the more you improve." Singh (both 5000m and 10,000m), two women steeplechasers — Parul Chaudhary and Ankita Dhyani and Pooja in both 1500m and 800m are the qualified distance runners. With sprinters, Sumariwalla said, "Camps and training centres established by Reliance and JSW, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha state associations have brought in foreign coaches. Tejas Shirse (110m hurdles), Animesh Kujur (200m) are part of such programs," he said. Both Kujur and Shirse have qualified in their respective disciplines.

The 400m discipline has been one of the strong areas for India. However, no Indian quarter-miler has made the cut to the Tokyo meet. Recently at the National inter-state meet here, India's 400m coach from Jamaica Jason Dawson had said that the interference by the Indian coach into his program has not helped his cause. "One of the biggest problem I have since I came to India is the interference of other Indian coaches telling the athletes what to do not to do and why they should not do," Dawson had said.

LIST OF QUALIFIED ATHLETES

Men: Neeraj Chopra - javelin throw - wild card; Gulveer Singh - 5000m - direct qualification and 10,000m - by invite; Praveen Chithravel - Triple Jump - direct qualification; Abdulla Aboobacker - Triple Jump - world rankings; Sarvesh Kushare - High Jump - world rankings; Animesh Kujur - 200m - world rankings; Sachin Yadav - javelin throw - world rankings; Yashvir Singh - javelin throw - world rankings; Sreeshankar M - Long Jump - world rankings; Servin Sebastian - 20km race walk - world rankings; Ram Baboo - 35km race walk - world rankings; Sandeep Kumar 35km race walk - by invite; Rohit Yadav - Javelin throw - by invite; Tejas Shirse - 110m hurdles - by invite; **Women:** Parul Chaudhary - 3000m steeplechase - direct qualification; Ankita Dhyani - 3000m steeplechase - world rankings; Annu Rani - javelin throw - world rankings; Priyanka Goswami - 35km race walk; Pooja - 1500m - world rankings 800m - by invite.

Satwik & Chirag rue lapse in third game during their semifinal against Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China at Worlds

'OPENING STRETCH IN DECIDER COST US'

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

WITH spring in their steps, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty employed every tool in their arsenal in their pursuit for greatness. A good dose of textbook smashes, some mind-bending returns and the duo also exhibited their tenacity. But at the latter stages of their men's doubles semifinal contest at the World Championships in Paris on Saturday, they hit a dead end.

Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi, their opponents in the last-four stage, upped their game to outfox the Indians with flick services. The Chinese duo seemed to have figured out the Indian duo's Achilles heel, mixing their tactics well. It was unreal and sort of an anti-climax given that Satwik and Chirag had fought their way back into the contest by pocketing the second game. Within minutes, the score read 9-0 in the Chinese duo's favour. The Chinese pair was also — for the large part — impenetrable in their defense, adding to Satwik and Chirag's frustrations.

It was just the opposite for Liu and Chen, ranked World No 11, as they were visibly pumped. Liu also landed a couple of backhand smashes to lift the crowd at the Adidas Arena.

After that opening onslaught, the Indians were battling a losing cause. Sensing victory, the Chinese duo brought their attacking game to the fore to land some winners and inch closer to their target, Down 5-17, the Indians did well to make it a respectable score in the end. But the contest was well beyond their reach then. The Indians lost 19-21, 21-18, 12-21. Chirag later recalled the period of play which led to their downfall. "We didn't get any rhythm and we didn't start off well and gave away easy points and they were also serving quite well. We should also have been a little smarter but credit to them, they served very well from the start of the third game," he said during the post-match media interaction.

India's Chirag Shetty (L) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy lost the Worlds semifinal to their Chinese opponents on Saturday | AFP

Satwik also felt that their opponents were operating with plenty of determination. "They played with much more confidence. Their body language suggested they were enjoying it a bit more than us. Even in the first game, where we were leading, they were just giving what they have. We played well in patches and in the third game, they were carrying a good feeling. It's all a matter of confidence, how mentally strong you are. In the third game, that stretch (opening) cost and we could have done something different during that phase," he said. Just like they had done in the earlier rounds, the Indian duo were switched on from the onset against the Chinese pair, who are ranked World No 11. They had their nose in front and it seemed like they could potentially take the game away from their rivals. But the Chinese pair found their rhythm, displaying some good defense to cut the gap and take the lead in the mid-stages. It was like a chess match during that phase with both pairs testing each others' mettle all over the court.

But it was the Chinese who seemed to have an edge. They were masterfully handling the attacking might of the Indians and gaining vital points. But the Indians continued to apply the pressure with their relentless attacking play and make the game an even contest. Despite that, it was the Chinese pair who brought out their A-game to pocket the opener.

The Indians yet again made a quick start to take the lead in the early stages of the second essay. With their attacking play, the Indians seemed to be in charge. But the Chinese pair continued to rely on their resolute defense to frustrate the Indians. They also had enough attacking prowess in their locker to kill the rallies. Their night might have been a real toil but they bow out with a noteworthy footprint. The way they operated against Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia, who have haunted them in the past, was one of the highlights.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Asia Cup: India defeat Japan to enter Super 4s

AGENCIES @ Rajgir

SKIPPER Harmanpreet Singh continued to play awe-inspiring hockey, scoring a brace as India defeated a fighting Japan 3-2 to qualify for the Super Four stage of the Hero Men's Asia Cup here on Sunday.

After scoring a hat-trick in the opener against China, Harmanpreet (5th, 46th minutes) converted two penalty corners, while Mandeep Singh struck a fine field goal in the fourth minute to give the hosts a deserving win. For Japan, Kosei Kawabe (38th, 58th minutes) scored bot the goals.

With two wins in as many games, India are leading Pool A with six points and are ahead of Japan and China, who have one win each. India will conclude their group engagement with the match against Kazakhstan on Monday, while the winner of the tie between Japan and China will decide the other Super Four team from Pool A. India displayed a much-improved performance from their previous match.

India players celebrate a goal against Japan in Asia Cup on Sunday | PTI

Holder Sinner and Swiatek in last 16

AGENCIES @ New York

JANNIK Sinner kept his US Open title defence on track Saturday as Iga Swiatek struggled through to the last 16 and home favourite Coco Gauff booked a blockbuster clash with Naomi Osaka. Sinner rallied from a set down to beat Canadian 27th seed Denis Shapovalov 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 and is trying to become the first man to retain the title in New York since Roger Federer in 2008. "I was in a very difficult moment," said Sinner. "The scoreline was a bit against me today, but I just tried to stay there mentally."

World number one Sinner will face Alexander Bublik next after the mercurial Kazakh put out US 14th seed Tommy Paul in a late-night thriller, winning in five sets. "Week two is completely different. It's getting tougher and tougher," said Sinner.

Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrates her win over Russia's Anna Kalinskaya | AFP

Third seed Alexander Zverev fell to his earliest US Open exit in seven years at the hands of an inspired Felix Auger-Aliassime. Canada's Auger-Aliassime belted 50 winners but was a point away from going two sets down before outduelling Zverev 4-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 6-4. "I didn't play a good match, and not a good tournament in general," said 2020 runner-up Zverev.

Swiatek showed great resolve to dig herself out of trouble against Russian 29th seed Anna Kalinskaya under the lights of Arthur Ashe Stadium. The world number two slid 5-1 behind in the opening set but saved four set points and won a tie-break before eventually seeing off Kalinskaya 7-6 (7/2), 6-4. Swiatek, the 2022 US Open champion and six-time major winner, was far from her best but scrambled through to a last-16 meeting with Ekaterina Alexandrova. "I felt like I had nothing to lose because I was losing pretty bad. So in the end I just went for it because what else can you do?" Swiatek said of her fightback.

Buchi Babu: Vimal, Pradosh shine for TN Prez XI

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

BRIEF SCORES **At CSK-HPC:** TNCA President's XI 265/3 in 90 ovs (R Vimal Khumar 112, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 91) vs Jammu & Kashmir. **At Guru Nanak:** Hyderabad 225 in 80 ovs (Rahul Radesh 31, Hima Teja 31, Varun Goud 41, Amit Rana 3/52) vs Haryana 14/0 in 8 ovs.

R Vimal Khumar

R VIMAL Khumar's century (112; 215b, 12x4, 1x6) and skipper Pradosh Ranjan Paul's valuable 91 (182b, 10x4) propelled TNCA President's XI to post 265 for 3 in 90 overs against Jammu & Kashmir in the semifinals of the Buchi Babu tournament played at CSK-HPC grounds here on Sunday.

The duo added 189 runs in 56.4 overs for the second wicket to put the hosts in a position of strength. It had rained on Saturday night and there must have been some moisture in the wicket but they batted with patience. "I feel it's a good innings because this morning definitely the wicket had a lot of help for the fast bowler. They (J&K) played only one fast bowler. There was a lot of help for him, so, it was important that I play him through, not try much off his bowling," said Vimal after the day's play. "They had to bring the spinners early on, as they were playing with only one fast bowler. So, when the spinners came, we knew that the wicket was not doing much for the spinner, as we expected it to. So, I just wanted to play normal, after seeing the first spell of that fast bowler," he added.

With B Sai Sudharsan being in the mix for the Test team, the openers slot for the upcoming Ranji season is up for grabs but Vimal said he is not focussed on that. "I just want to do my part well. I want to get runs and make sure my team is winning when I get runs. So, I am just trying to focus more on that. The wicket was good, I didn't want to try too many things. I just wanted to play normal cricket, I didn't want to take too much risk," he said. Pradosh was happy that Vimal got a ton and blamed himself for missing the century. "Vimal played extremely well. We complimented each other and managed to stitch a partnership and put runs on the board. Yes it was my mistake that led to missing the century once again. Next time I will try to make it (century)," he said.

Chief coach M Senthilnathan who had a long chat with chief selector K Shri Vasudevadas during tea break was happy with the day's proceedings.

India set to take on Iran in CAFA Nations Cup football

AGENCIES @ Hisor (Tajikistan)

BOOSTED by the win against co-host Tajikistan in the campaign opener in new head coach Khalid Jamil's maiden international match, India will aim to challenge the might of Asian giants Iran when the two teams clash in the CAFA Nations Cup on Monday.

India beat higher-ranked Tajikistan 2-1 on Friday as the team, competing in the tournament for the first time, gave a good account of itself ahead of the crucial Asian Cup qualifying round matches against Singapore on October 9 and 14.

Despite missing several Mohun Bagan Super Giant players, who were not released by the club on the ground that the tournament does not strictly fall in the FIFA international match window, and the absence of Sunil Chhetri, Indian stalwarts Anwar Ali and Sandesh Jhingan rose to the occasion to slot home the goals. Jamil, who is on his maiden assignment with the team, said the victory against Tajikistan was a testament to team work.

Duleep Trophy: North set up semifinal clash vs South

ENS/AGENCIES

AYUSH Badoni (204 not out) made a fluent double hundred in North Zone's comfortable entry into Duleep Trophy semifinals on the basis of first innings lead as their quarterfinal match against East Zone expectedly petered into a draw on the fourth and final day here Sunday. Starting from overnight 388/2, North ended up at 658/4 for a lead of 833 runs before both the teams shook hands.

Central play West in SF

North East Zone batted bravely to deny Central Zone an outright win but could not stop them from marching into the semifinals by the virtue of a decisive first-innings lead here Sunday. North East Zone, chasing a 679-run target put on board 200 for six as the match ended in a tame draw. Central Zone will take on West Zone in the semifinal.

Azharuddeen to lead South

Kerala batter Mohammed Azharuddeen replaced Tilak Varma as the South Zone captain for the semifinal against North Zone, starting on September 4. **South Zone:** Azharuddeen (Captain), Tanmay, Devdutt, Mohit, Salman, Jagadeesan, Tripurana, Tanay, Vyshak, Nidheesh MD, Ricky, Basil NP, Gurjapneet, Snehal, Ankit, Shaikh. **Standbys:** Mohit, R Smaran, Edhen, Andre.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Szoboszlai's stunner in Liverpool's big win

AGENCIES @ London

DOMINIK Szoboszlai curled home a brilliant long-range free kick to earn Liverpool a 1-0 win over Arsenal in an early-season meeting between two of the likely Premier League title contenders on Sunday.

Manchester City was also expected to be challenging for the championship this season but collapsing to a 2-1 loss at Brighton — for a second straight loss — was another sign that Pep Guardiola's team has lost its aura of dominance.

Little separated Liverpool and Arsenal at Anfield before Szoboszlai stepped up to an 83rd-minute free kick and whipped it into the top corner from about 30 yards (meters). Filling in at full back in an emergency, the Hungary captain — typically an attacking midfielder — did his best impression of now-departed right back Trent Alexander with a top-quality strike that was out of keeping with the rest of the game. It's now three straight wins to open the season for Liverpool, the defending champion. For Arsenal, it was a first loss and first goal conceded — extending their winless record at Anfield dating back to 2012. **Results:** Liverpool 1-0 Arsenal; Brighton 2-1 Man City; Nottm Forest 0-3 West Ham.

Liverpool's Dominik Szoboszlai celebrates after scoring against Arsenal | AP

Vinicius helps Real win

BARCELONA: Vinicius Junior and Arda Guler scored back-to-back goals to help Real Madrid rally for a 2-1 win over Mallorca and make it three wins in as many games in the Spanish league on Saturday.

EXPRESS READ

India women crowned SAFF U17 champions

THIMPHU (BHUTAN): India were on Sunday crowned champions of the SAFF U-17 Women's Championships, despite suffering a 3-4 loss to Bangladesh in their last league match here on Sunday. This was India's lone defeat in the tournament which was played among four countries in a double round-robin format. India topped the league table with 15 points.

HIL to be played in 3 venues in Jan 2026

RAJGIR: Hockey India League's 2026 edition will be held at three venues instead of two in January, federation chief Dilip Tirkey said. The men's league will continue to be an 8-team competition but the women's event could see participation of 6 teams instead of 4. He also said that Gonasika (men) and Odisha Warriors (2025 women champs) have withdrawn from the league.

Rohit, Gill & Bumrah clear fitness tests

BENGALURU: Indian cricketers, including Test skipper Shubman Gill and ODI captain Rohit Sharma, have cleared the pre-season fitness test which was conducted at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here over the weekend. Gill will travel to Dubai soon for the Asia Cup, starting on September 9, and his teammates Jasprit Bumrah and Jitesh Sharma too have passed the fitness parameters.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

UPSSC PET 2025 Date: September 6-7 | APPSC FOREST SECTION OFFICER EXAM Date: September 7 | SSC CHSL 2025 Date: September 8–18

The journey of CBSE students from ABCs to AI

FROM introducing AI formally in textbooks to conducting workshops for both teachers and students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been keeping pace with emerging technology. Over the past few years, the way technology is taught in CBSE classrooms has evolved. Here's a breakdown of the curriculum for Classes 1 to 12.

Classes 1-5: Digital literacy & playful coding

Focus: Introducing children to technology through play, exploration, and creativity.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

- Basic computer operations
- Understanding technology in daily life
- Introduction to block-based coding

LEARNING APPROACH

- Activity-based projects and interactive exercises
- Mini projects and creative tasks
- Aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023

CLASSES 6-8: CODING & AI AS SKILL SUBJECTS

Focus: Structured skill subjects introducing formal coding and AI concepts.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

- Basics of AI and its applications
- Introduction to data and neural networks
- AI ethics and responsible use

LEARNING APPROACH

- Hands-on coding and AI projects
- Capstone projects solving real-world problems
- Assessment focused on creativity and application over rote memorisation

CLASSES 9–12: ADVANCED CODING, AI AND APPLIED TECH

Focus: Advanced programming, AI, data science, and applied technology skills.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

- Advanced AI and machine learning
- Data science and analytics
- Programming languages (Python, Java, text-based coding)

LEARNING APPROACH

- Project-based and real-world problem-solving
- Group challenges simulating industry or research projects
- Capstone and portfolio-ready projects

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH AI: STATE-BY-STATE INITIATIVES

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes an integral part of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) curricula, Indian states are also pioneering initiatives to bring AI and coding into classrooms. Here's how some states are leading the way

KARNATAKA

Karnataka plans to modernise education with experimentation-based learning in AI, robotics, and astronomy. It is opening 500 AI-focused public schools and has begun training teachers through workshops.

KERALA

Kerala was the first state to add AI to its school curriculum in 2024. From Class 7, students learn applications of AI through small projects, while younger classes are introduced gradually. The state has also revised ICT textbooks and is working on a state-owned AI engine for schools.

DELHI

Delhi has integrated coding for Classes 1 to 8, focusing on computational thinking and problem-solving. The government is strengthening digital infrastructure by providing devices and high-speed internet in government schools.

MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra launched a comprehensive AI policy in April 2025. Its curriculum includes coding and robotics for Classes 1 to 8 with activity-based learning, while also piloting AI-powered early education programmes in rural areas.

TAMIL NADU

From the 2025–26 academic year, Tamil Nadu will introduce AI and coding for Classes 6 to 9. The syllabus, prepared by SCERT with expert input, will be backed by teacher training and partnerships with tech firms like Microsoft.

As coding and AI enter school curriculum, **Saumyangi Yadav** explores how early to begin, how much to teach, and whether teachers and schools can keep pace

AI GOES TO SCHOOL

CODING AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN INDIAN CLASSROOMS

INDIAN classrooms are changing fast. Alongside math and history, students are learning to write code and integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into daily life. These skills are becoming the new literacy, essential for careers in technology, research, innovation, and beyond. To keep up, CBSE has updated its curriculum, and state boards are catching up. But this shift raises big questions: How early should children start learning coding and AI? What's the best way to teach these concepts? And can schools keep up with technology that evolves daily?

Educators and experts argue that AI and coding are not just add-ons but are redefining education. The key difference lies in when and how these skills are introduced, especially to younger students.

CATCH THEM YOUNG

Most educators believe Classes 3 to 4 are the right stage, often using play-based platforms with block programming or visual storytelling. "Children can start understanding the basics of coding as early as Grade 3 through play-based and visual platforms, and by middle school, they are ready for more complex structures," says Anju Soni, Principal of Shiv Nadar School, Noida. While it may seem complex early on, educators argue that children's natural curiosity makes these concepts easier to grasp. Many schools are adopting this approach.

Geeta Jayanth, Head of Chaman Bhartiya School, notes, "Research and practical teaching experience suggest that children around the age of 8 or 9 are capable of understanding basic AI concepts, and early exposure helps in developing an intuitive understanding of technology." Even younger children are being introduced to simplified coding and AI logic.

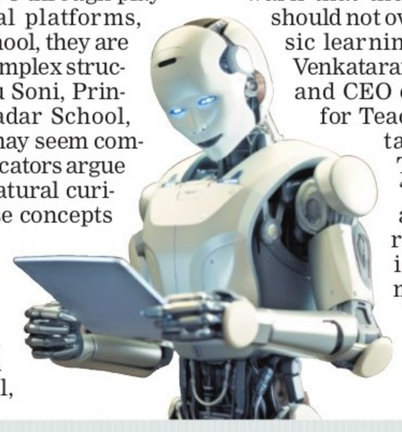
As Aditi Misra, Director of DPS Gurgaon, explains, "Six-year-olds are too young for high-level coding, but they can be taught very basic code in a controlled setting where the output is easy to generate, and when they see results, they are mesmerised."

next gen

KEEPING A BALANCE

While sparking interest is easy, sustaining it is harder. "Students are naturally curious about technology, but the challenge is sustaining it by moving beyond tool use to deeper problem-solving and creativity," says Soni.

To keep curiosity alive, some schools have introduced hands-on projects in robotics, coding, and design up to Class 5, with optional advanced participation from Class 6 onwards. However, experts warn that the focus on AI should not overshadow basic learning. As Ramya Venkataraman, Founder and CEO of the Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA), explains, "Foundational skills of reading, writing, and numeracy cannot be replaced or deprioritised because of the push to introduce coding or AI too early. These skills are the very basis of problem-solving, communication, and product design, which are ultimately the purposes behind technology and AI."



TEACHERS A BOTTLENECK?

As schools evolve,upgrading curriculum and infrastructure means little unless the biggest challenge — upskilling teachers — is addressed. Educators agree that the pace of change demands continuous upskilling, which is why schools are investing in teacher training, external collaborations, and online platforms to prepare faculty for the future. However, experts argue that the real issue is not just upskilling, but understanding. "As per a CENTA survey of 5,000 teachers, almost 70% reported using AI in some way, yet many still had very basic misunderstandings of what AI actually is. When AI is taught in a tool-driven way rather than a problem-driven way, these misconceptions get passed down to students," explains Venkataraman.

PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

Soni argues that "AI can only be truly useful when applied creatively; excessive dependence without analytical and critical thinking reduces it to just another cheat sheet." Educators believe that the compulsory foundation in coding and AI at the primary level helps every child find their interest, after which they can specialise. "This approach equips students with critical skills such as problem-solving, logical thinking, and adaptability," says Geeta Jayanth from Chaman Bharatiya School.

DPS Director Aditi Misra sees it as preparation for an economy where AI and data science will underpin industries, giving students "creativity and the ability to connect different pieces of the puzzle, with AI playing a key role in making sense of data and the world."

Professor Balaraman Ravindran,
Head, Wadhwani School of Data Science and AI, IIT Madras.

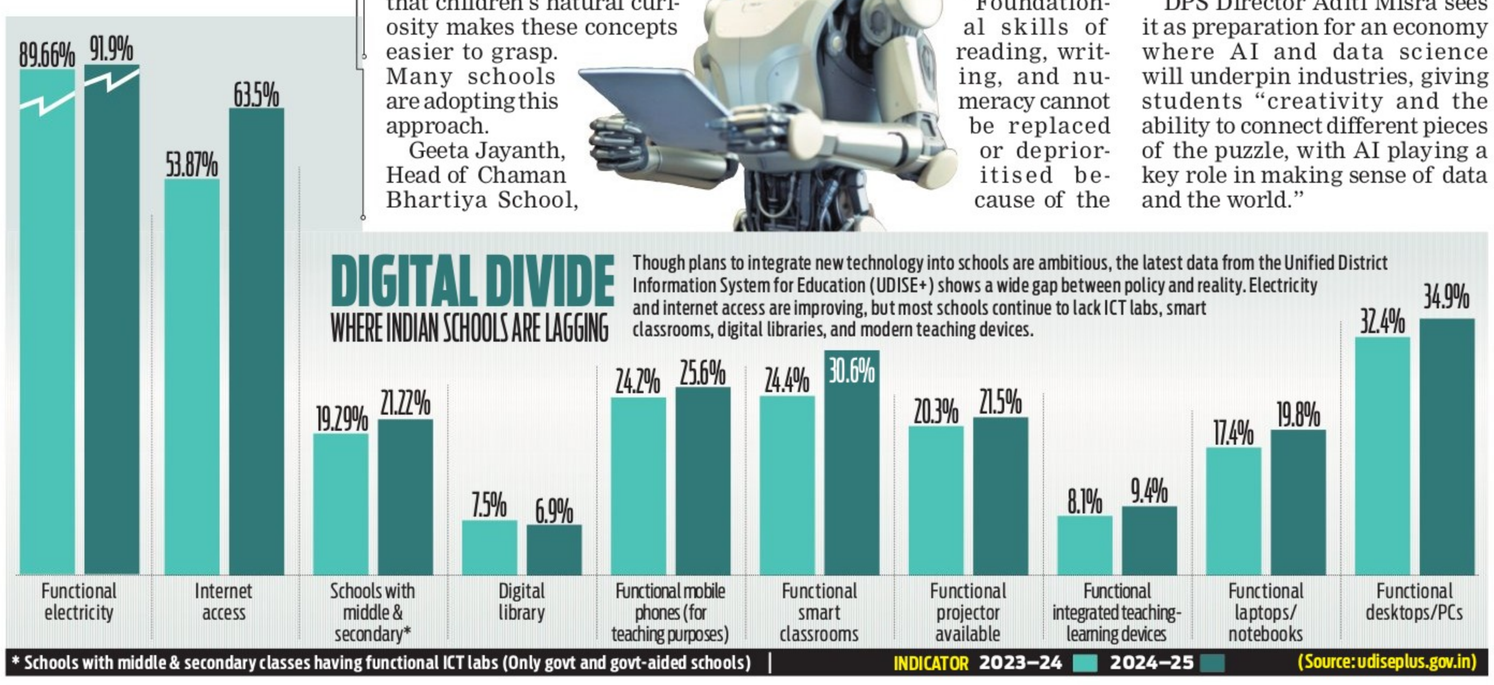
Education, as we knew it, is over, though we haven't realised it yet. It may sound provocative, but if you continue teaching conventionally without integrating AI tools and exposure in schools, students will be unable to learn anything. Calculators do all the arithmetic for us now, but we still teach basic arithmetic at some level without calculators. Similarly, we must ensure foundational skills need to be introduced, which can gradually be mastered. We need to restrict the use of AI tools and let thinking flourish independently. Indiscriminate use of AI tools before skills development can hamper skill-building.

Prateek Agarwal,
AMAZON FUTURE ENGINEER LEAD, AMAZON INDIA

Incorporating AI and coding into school curricula is no longer optional; it is rather foundational. We believe that early exposure to computer science empowers students not just with technical skills, but with the confidence to innovate and solve real-world problems. We have witnessed how underserved students, many of whom are first-generation learners, can thrive when given access to structured, hands-on learning in AI and coding. In over four years, we have positively impacted over three million students across multiple states, working closely with non-profit organisations to ensure inclusive and equitable access to computer science education.

DIGITAL DIVIDE
WHERE INDIAN SCHOOLS ARE LAGGING

Though plans to integrate new technology into schools are ambitious, the latest data from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) shows a wide gap between policy and reality. Electricity and internet access are improving, but most schools continue to lack ICT labs, smart classrooms, digital libraries, and modern teaching devices.



* Schools with middle & secondary classes having functional ICT labs (Only govt and govt-aided schools) | (Source: udiseplus.gov.in)

Jobs of tomorrow
Where can AI skills take you?

AI skills are not limited to technology and data sectors. As AI becomes woven into everyday life, it's turning into a must-have across industries. Here are just a few career paths you can pursue with strong AI expertise, and the list is only growing.

	What You'll Do	Approx. Salary Range (2025)
AI & DATA-CENTRIC PROFESSIONS		
AI/ML engineer	Build AI systems, deploy ML solutions	₹6 LPA – ₹40 LPA
Data scientist	Analyse data, build predictive models	₹5 LPA – ₹35 LPA
AI researcher	Develop new algorithms, work on generative AI (GenAI)	₹15 LPA – ₹50 LPA
Robotics engineer	Design and build robots, automate processes	₹6 L – ₹20 LPA
CREATIVE PROFESSIONS		
Game developer	Create smarter NPCs (Non-Player Characters), enable adaptive gameplay	₹6 LPA – ₹25 LPA
Content creator / Video editor	Use AI tools for editing and storytelling	₹3 LPA – ₹12 LPA
Graphic designer	Design posters, logos, and ad campaigns	₹4 LPA – ₹15 LPA
TRADITIONAL PROFESSIONS		
Lawyers	Conduct legal research with AI, build strategies	₹8 LPA – ₹25 LPA
Finance professionals	Develop AI for risk models and fraud detection	₹6 LPA – ₹20 LPA
HR/recruiters	Screen resumes with AI	₹5 LPA – ₹15 LPA
EMERGING ROLES		
AI ethics & policy specialist	Build frameworks for safe AI usage	₹8 LPA –₹20 LPA
Prompt engineer	Design smart prompts for generative AI (GenAI) tools	₹10 LPA – ₹30 LPA
AI auditor	Audit AI systems for fairness and bias	₹8 LPA – ₹25 LPA

Are Indian classrooms keeping up with global leaders in AI?

Classrooms worldwide are gearing up for the rise of AI. Global leaders like the USA and Singapore are embedding AI early and universally in schools. How does India's progress compare to schools across the globe? Here's a snapshot.

	Singapore	India	USA
Curriculum start	Primary (Classes 5 or 6)	Class 6 onwards	Coding from elementary; AI electives in middle and high school
Core focus	Computational thinking, coding, ethical AI, robotics	AI literacy, coding, applications	Computer science standards, coding, AI literacy, digital citizenship
Pedagogy	Hands-on, project-based, interactive learning platforms	Experiential, project-based; AI electives in higher grades	Blended learning, project-based; strong emphasis on creativity
Integration with other subjects	Strong STEM integration; cross-disciplinary projects	Limited STEM integration; often standalone	Broad integration across STEM, arts, and social sciences
Extracurricular opportunities	Robotics competitions, hackathons	AI and coding competitions, school tech clubs	STEM fairs, robotics leagues, coding camps
Digital infrastructure	Universal high-speed internet, AI labs, student devices	Uneven: strong in urban areas, weak in rural regions	Generally strong; varies by state or district, but widely accessible
Student exposure (weekly hours)	Approx. 10 hrs/week of coding and AI in primary; more in secondary	2–4 hrs/week in pilot programmes; expanding gradually	Approx. 5–10 hrs/week in s

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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01.09.2025
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Titanic found

On this day, in 1985, final resting place of Titanic was located by an American-French expedition, seventy-three years after it sank

AN ADVANCED VESSEL

It was the largest, luxurious and one of the most technologically advanced ship. It had 16 watertight compartments designed to keep it afloat if damaged

THE DISCOVERY

National Geographic explorer-in-residence Robert Ballard and French scientist Jean-Louis Michel found the ship that sunk while on its maiden voyage

THE DAMAGE

Today, organic processes are relentlessly breaking down the Titanic, modern trash litters the area, and submersibles have damaged the ship

What's going on in Bengaluru?

PG 2

HIRE POWER

In the face of ongoing layoffs, here's what fresh graduates and young professionals can do to gain an edge while job hunting

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

RECENTLY, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) dropped a metaphorical bomb when they announced they would lay off 12,000 of their employees. With the IT industry being the bread and butter of most Bengalureans, engineering students and fresh graduates are still reeling with worry in the wake of the statement.

Even so, business leaders and youngsters share that multidisciplinary knowledge, practical and AI skills, along with soft skills, can give freshers and young professionals an edge in a complicated job market.

Multidisciplinary know-how

College students are becoming aware of the importance of AI skills, but Akhil, a 22-year-old Business Insights intern, points out that college courses alone are not enough when looking for AI-related roles. "Apart from college activities, I participated in hackathons, Google and Microsoft competitions, and took online AI courses. Still, I was told during placements that I'm way behind the industry standards," he shares.

Highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary knowledge, he adds, "AI is a field where math, stats, and finance are integrated, and understanding that is key. While colleges teach coding, they don't teach this. I found that companies would rather hire a statistics graduate and teach them technical skills than hire a technical person and teach them statistics."

What do IT leaders say?

Suresh*, an industry leader, who has held director roles at top IT firms, reassures freshers saying that not everyone needs to be an AI expert to land a job. "Technologies keep changing, but one thing that remains constant is what we expect of freshers. If an AI writes code, do you have the awareness to gauge whether it is a good one and make changes effectively or are you just going to consume what it gives? Once the base is strong, any AI or cybersecurity certification is a plus," he says.

Top IT company director Susheel* advises focusing on skill-building and industry knowledge, saying, "Knowing how to develop Python using AI, industry knowledge on retail, consumer goods, or manufacturing industries and implementing these technologies for such industries would make them productive employees."

HR professional Litty Chacko also emphasises the role of soft skills alongside comfort with AI tools. "Technical skills, along with soft skills, help freshers stand out because employers look for people who are adaptable, good at communication, and quick learners. Also, being comfortable with AI tools or any digital collaboration platform can really give an edge. Taking up courses online not only adds to your skills but also shows that you are proactive and growth-oriented," she says.

Ashish Jayaram, a 26-year-old project manager, says youngsters can expect new opportunities from start-ups. "There are a lot of start-ups entering the service industry, competing for the same piece of pie as bigger companies," he opines. Minu, a former TCS employee, explains what roles are likely to become redundant, saying, "Roles focused on manual testing, application support, infrastructure management, or basic coding are most vulnerable. These are increasingly being automated or shifted to AI-driven systems. Those who haven't transitioned into technologies like cloud, data analytics, cybersecurity, or AI/ML (Machine Learning) may be seen as 'skill mismatched' and are at higher risk".

(*Name changed for anonymity)

There are a lot of start-ups entering the service industry, competing for the same piece of pie as bigger companies

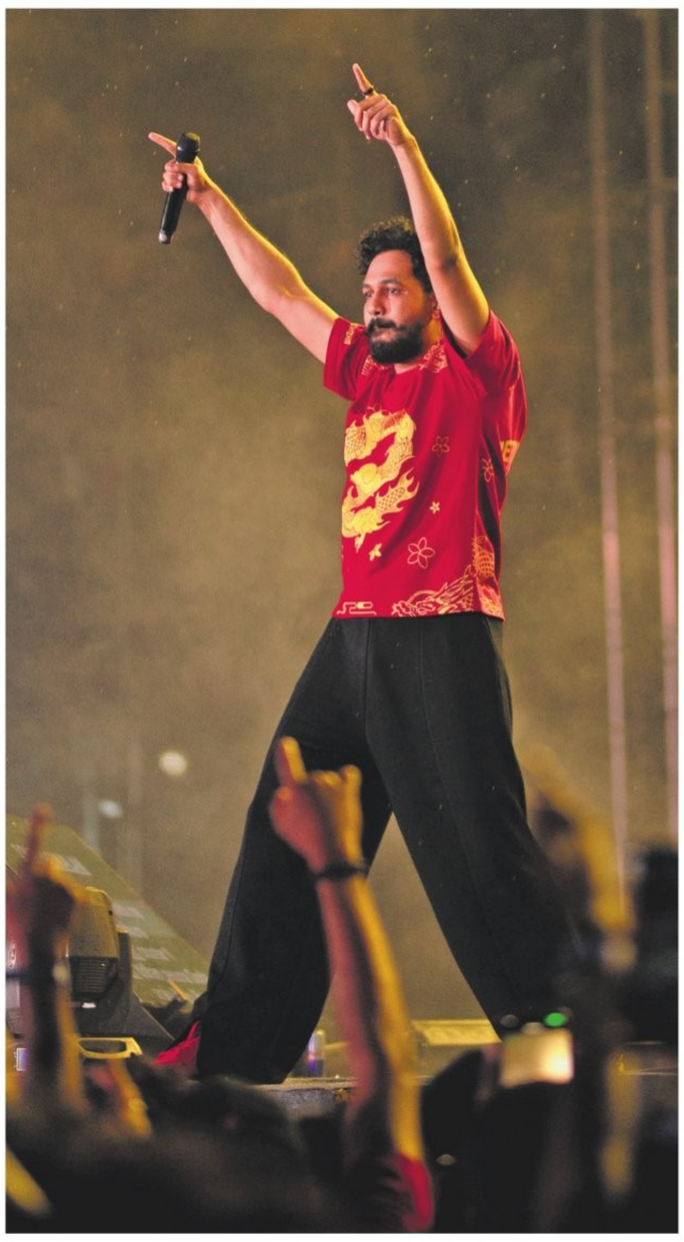
Ashish Jayaram, project manager

Technologies keep changing, but one thing that remains constant is what we expect of freshers. If an AI writes code, do you have the awareness to gauge whether it is a good one and make changes effectively or are you just going to consume what it gives?

Suresh, an industry leader

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Business leaders share that multidisciplinary knowledge, AI and soft skills, can give young professionals an upper hand in a complicated job market



NAILING IT!

Adhi aka Hiphop Tamizha, known for hits like *Ethir Neechal*, *Pallikoodam*, and *Vaadi Pulla Vaadi*, sets the stage on fire with his performance at NICE Grounds, Madavara

CITY READ

Cooking contest to be launched on Sept 20

'Aduge Mane Superstar', one of the largest pan-Karnataka contests, celebrating culinary diversity and community spirit, will be launched at The Whitefield Club on September 20. The contest aims to bring together cooking enthusiasts, chefs, and bakers across regions and generations, who will showcase family recipes, regional specialties, and festive staples that reflect the state's rich mosaic of traditions. The food will be reviewed based on taste, authenticity, presentation, and storytelling. The event will roll out cities and districts across Karnataka, culminating in a state finale by next year. For details, contact 78381 94020.

City to host festive edition of vegan market

Step into the festive season with the 15th edition of Namu Recommends Vegan Market – The Festive Edit, returning on September 6 and 7 at Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal. This celebration of plant-powered living brings together over 130 brands from across India, offering everything from vegan delights and artisanal breads to cruelty-free beauty and sustainable fashion. Expect indulgent offerings such as tempeh momos, vegan pizzas, biryanis, decadent bakes, and preservative-free ice lollies, alongside eco-friendly lifestyle finds. With live food stalls, a kids' corner, and a pet-friendly setting, the event promises a weekend of conscious shopping, festive cheer, and community spirit.

Eatery celebrates food with global inspiration

Juliana's Bistro, an all-day dining space blending New York's cosmopolitan spirit with the old-world charm of Bengaluru, will be launched at Safina Plaza on Monday. Conceived by founder Sabrina Sait, the bistro celebrates community and comfort, offering continental and Asian flavours, artisanal coffee, a curated zero-proof cocktail menu, and an in-house bakery. Culinary highlights include asparagus and burrata, chicken a la Kiev, Singapore chilli prawns, and desserts such as almond creme brulee and Paris brest. Meal for two is priced at ₹1,500. For details, contact 97395 90000.

Architect Naresh V Narasimhan's BLR Design Centre opened BLR Reads this weekend – a public library space meant for those interested in learning about the city's urban history and culture

REIGNITING OORU'S SHELF LIFE

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

TUCKED within the premises of BLR Design Centre on Church Street is a new corner lined with books, cosy reading seats and curious readers. This space called BLR Reads was launched over the weekend and is different from a typical public library, focused entirely on providing Bengalureans with access to knowledge on the city. "We are starting with a foundational collection of nearly 500 books with focus on Bengaluru's urban history, culture, and development alongside architecture, urban design, and public-private design practices. This includes books and academic texts, maps and planning documents, photographs and visual archives, as well as journals and newsletters on architecture and urban issues," explains architect Naresh V Narasimhan, co-founder of the Mod Foundation which runs the centre.

The aim is to foster networks around issues of concern – an open-innovation space where users participate in creating knowledge while rediscovering the civic wonder libraries once inspired

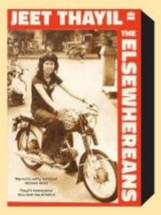
Naresh V Narasimhan, architect

The launch weekend featured events, including a zine making workshop, a children's reading session, a guided walkthrough and exhibition. Alongside this was a talk by artist Suresh Jayaram on the city and public culture and a discussion with Meera Iyer on her book *India In Triangles* about how the country was mapped through geometrical processes. Narasimhan hopes to turn the space alive with discussion, not just be a space for solitary pursuits. "The aim is to foster networks around issues of concern – an open-innovation space where users participate in creating knowledge while rediscovering the civic wonder libraries once inspired. Within Bengaluru's library ecosystem, it is not trying to compete with large public libraries but rather complement them. It is a curated, design-driven space where public programming connects literature to the city's issues," he says.

Mainly acting as a platform to draw students, academics, engineers, planners, designers, developers, activists, and urban enthusiasts. Narasimhan hopes that young Bengalureans who drop by, perhaps in the midst of a day out on Church Street, rediscover the joy of reading and the charm of libraries. "I hope they rediscover that reading is not a solitary act, but as something that can build community. If younger Bengalureans leave feeling inspired, curious, and a more connected to the city and the world of ideas, we would have achieved our purpose," he says.

BLR Reads is a brand new public reference library in the city

BOOK NOOK



The Elsewhereans : A Documentary Novel

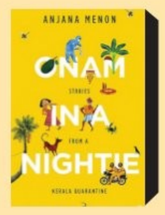
by Jeet Thayil

Jeet Thayil's *The Elsewhereans* is a genre-defying novel that melds fiction, travelogue, memoir, a ghost story, a family saga, photographs and much else into a tale that unfolds across continents and decades.

The Dead Fish

by Rajkamal Choudhary

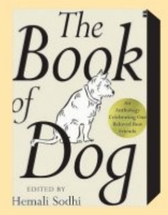
This seminal masterpiece of Hindi literature translated into English, is a fearless anatomy of sexual orientation, identity and emotional tumult set in mid-20th-century Kolkata.



Onam in a Nightie

by Anjana Menon

Malgudi Days meets reality in the search for joy and belonging in a book that is alternatively heartwarming and hilarious. The book takes you to a place that you wish stays that way forever.



The Book of Dog

by Hemali Sodhi

Through a series of unforgettable real-life stories-funny, poignant, warm and joyous, the authors celebrate the remarkable dogs they have known and loved. The book a is a testament to how deeply dogs touch us.

FRAME TALK

Artist Asima Choudhury takes visitors through her collection at Mehendii art exhibition, held at Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

ALOO SABAKKI CUTLET

INGREDIENTS

- **Potato:** 2 or 3, boiled and mashed.
- **Small onion:** 1, chopped
- **Salt, red chilli powder, gram masala, cumin powder, chaat masala:** 1/2 tsp each
- **Garlic:** 2, minced
- **Chopped coriander:** As per taste
- **Oil:** As needed, for shallow frying

METHOD

- Put boiled potatoes in a bowl and add all the ingredients with slurry.
- Shape the potato mixture into round patties.
- Heat the oil in a pan over medium heat.
- Place the potato patties in the pan and shallow fry until they're golden brown and crispy.
- Serve hot with your favourite chutney or sauce.

Contributed by **Veda Bai,** Bengaluru

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

What are the basic needs of a rabbit that first-time owners often overlook? When I get mine what are the must-haves I need to make her comfortable?

First-time rabbit owners often overlook key needs like space, mental stimulation, and social interaction. Rabbits require a spacious enclosure, but also daily time outside to hop and explore safely. A proper diet includes unlimited hay, fresh greens, and a small amount of pellets. Fresh water, chew toys for dental health, and litter training are essential. They thrive on companionship, either human or another rabbit. Safe hiding spots, soft bedding, and a quiet environment help them feel secure. Grooming tools and regular vet checks are also important. Before bringing your rabbit home, prepare a rabbit-proofed space and have all essential supplies.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

EVERYDAY FITNESS FOR A PAIN-FREE BACK

Lower back pain is one of the most common reasons people slow down or even give up on their fitness routine. Movements like squats, which are fundamental to building strength, become challenging when the spine feels compromised. Our bodies are designed to hinge, yet many fear this motion because it worsens their discomfort. The root cause? Poor spine hygiene.

WHEN IS THE SPINE LOADED?

The spine, particularly the lumbar region, is almost always under load. Whether you are sitting for long hours, driving, lifting weights, walking or playing sports, your lower spine bears the brunt. Over time, this constant stress leads to wear and tear, resulting in persistent pain.

HOW TO PREVENT IT

The solution is not rest, but regular exercise. Specific movements can build a protective sheath of muscles around the spine, improving stability and reducing strain. Here are some effective exercises to practice consistently:

Deadbug (4-5 reps per side, hold 20-30 sec)

- Lay flat on your back, arms at your sides.
- Bend knees to 90 degrees.
- Brace your core, pressing the lumbar spine into the floor.
- Extend one leg and the opposite arm simultaneously, hold, then switch sides.
- **Benefit:** Strengthens the core and stabilises the lower back.

Bird Dog (4-5 reps per side, hold 20-30 sec)

- Begin on all fours.
- Brace your core and extend one arm and the opposite leg away from the body.
- Hold for 10 seconds, then bring elbow and knee closer before extending again.
- **Benefit:** Builds balance and coordination while reducing spinal load.

Side Plank (30 seconds per side)

- Lie on one side, propped on your elbow.
- Lift your hips off the ground, creating a straight line from head to feet.
- Hold and switch sides.
- **Benefit:** Strengthens obliques and reduces lateral strain on the spine.

Hip Hinge

- Bend at the hips without rounding the spine.
- Keep your knees slightly bent.
- Lower your torso to just above parallel with the floor, maintaining a neutral spine.
- **Benefit:** Teaches proper hinging mechanics and protects against back injuries.

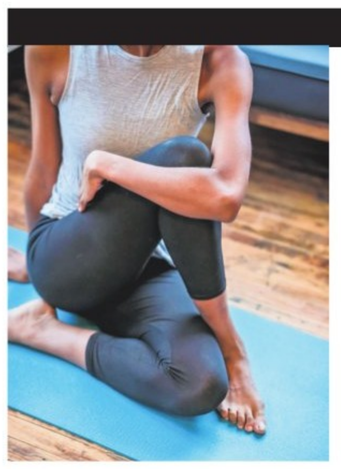
WALKING BREAKS

- Since sitting places continuous pressure on the lumbar spine, break it up. Walk for three minutes every 30 minutes of sitting. This simple habit not only aids recovery but also boosts metabolism and supports fat loss.

Back pain is rarely caused by one wrong move. More often, it results from years of poor posture and movement patterns. By practising these exercises, you can reduce risk of potential spine issues.

By Dhruva Sivakumar, fitness expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Inhale, Exhale

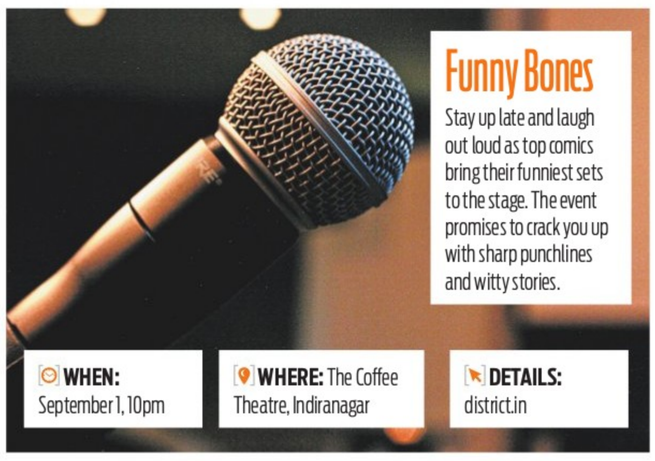
Feeling stressed or overwhelmed? Join this yoga session to explore simple healing tools. Experience the healing power of meditation together.

WHEN: September 1, 7pm
WHERE: Namma Ashram, Whitefield
DETAILS: allevents.in

Crew Vibes

Get your groove on with the city's party crowd! This one's all about dancing, good music, and a buzzing atmosphere as air hostesses and hoteliers light up the night. Grab your crew, dress up, and let the vibes take over.

WHEN: September 1, 8pm
WHERE: Hydra Club & Kitchen, Koramangala
DETAILS: highape.com



Funny Bones

Stay up late and laugh out loud as top comics bring their funniest sets to the stage. The event promises to crack you up with sharp punchlines and witty stories.

WHEN: September 1, 10pm
WHERE: The Coffee Theatre, Indiranagar
DETAILS: district.in

Artful Blades

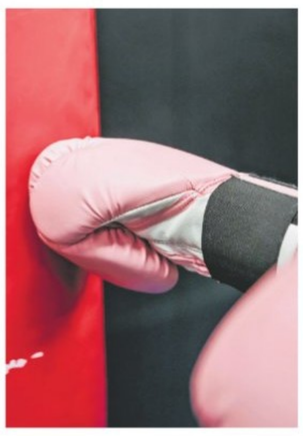
Unleash your creativity with the art of knife painting in a chic boho style. Learn to create textured and minimal designs that blend elegance with free-spirited charm.

WHEN: September 1, 5pm
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: artbeatclasses.com

Creative Connect

Step up to the 'Content Creators Meet Up', designed for influencers, vloggers, bloggers, and all types of digital content creators. Enjoy the evening with like-minded people who share your passion.

WHEN: September 1, 7pm
WHERE: Kannu Ki Chai, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Power Punch

Step into the ring and learn the fundamentals of boxing in a fun, beginner-friendly session. Build strength, stamina, and confidence as you master basic punches and footwork.

WHEN: September 1, 8.30pm
WHERE: NY Knockout Academy, BG Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Bollywood Dhamaka

Own the dance floor for an electrifying night of hip-hop and Bollywood beats. Join the crew and create memories as you experience a high-energy DJ set and a live performance by DJ Sash. **WHEN:** September 1, 8pm **WHERE:** Toca Brigade, Brigade Road **DETAILS:** highape.com

ARTCORNER

DRESSED TO EXPRESS

Artist Varsha Kharatmal paints two women, dressed in traditional saris and adorned with jewellery, evoking feminine grace

SUVper Kiger!

RENAULT INDIA TAPS THE 'AFFORDABLE SUV' SPACE WITH THE ALL-NEW KIGER, WHICH BOASTS A FRESH LOOK, IMPROVED FEATURES, AND PROVEN PERFORMANCE

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

AN SUV usually comes with a premium tag. An 'affordable SUV' is a rare breed, and that's exactly the space Renault has tapped in India with the Kiger. Alongside the Kwid hatchback and Triber MPV, the French brand now gives its compact SUV a timely update. After refreshing the Triber recently, it's the Kiger's turn for changes.

Renault invited the media to experience the new, feature-packed Kiger on the track, showcasing its frugal yet spirited engineering.

Exteriors

The updated Kiger packs over 35 enhancements. Externally, it carries Renault's new brand identity with a bolder front fascia, striking grille, new hood, redesigned bumpers, LED headlamps, tail lamps and fog lamps, plus 16-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels and skid plates. Where the earlier model had hints of the Kwid, the new Kiger feels more premium and elegant.

ON THE TRACK

At Manesar's ICAT testing facility, the turbo manual Kiger was put through its paces on oval and hill. Stability and steering precision was evident even on banked curves and wet gradients. During my drive, the SUV clocked 114 kmph on the high-speed track, and 0–100 kmph in 13 seconds in Sport mode — solid figures for its class. On steep 20% slopes in heavy rain, the Kiger handled climbs with ease.

Interiors

Cabin updates include a dual-tone dashboard, ventilated leatherette seats, new upholstery and better noise insulation, keeping the engine note out for a more refined drive. Tech upgrades bring a multi-view camera, automatic headlamps, rain-sensing wipers, wireless smartphone connectivity, a 20.32 cm floating touchscreen and an ARKAMYS surround sound system.

Safety

The facelift adds 21 standard safety features, including six airbags, ESP, Traction Control, Hill Start Assist and ISOFIX mounts. Cabin space remains one of its strengths, with best-in-class rear knee room, good interior storage and a practical boot.

Engines & performance

The Kiger continues with two engines: a 1-litre turbo petrol producing 100 PS and 160 Nm, offering up to 20.38 kmpl (ARAI), and a naturally aspirated 1-litre petrol with 72 PS and 96 Nm, returning 19.83 kmpl. Renault's Mirror Bore Coating tech, borrowed from racing, reduces engine friction, boosting power, efficiency and durability.

Transmission options include 5-speed manual and CVT for the turbo, and 5-speed manual or AMT for the NA engine. The Kiger also offers Eco, Normal and Sport drive modes.

Colours

Seven shades are available, with two new additions – Oasis Yellow and Shadow Grey – joining Radiant Red, Caspian Blue, Ice Cool White, Moonlight Silver and Stealth Black.

Verdict

With refreshed looks, more features, improved safety and proven performance, the updated Kiger is a stronger package than before. It makes a persuasive case as a stylish, affordable compact SUV.

ALL INDIA, ONE PRICE (EX-SHOWROOM)

KIGER TURBO Manual: ₹9,99,995 | X-TRONIC CVT: 11,29,995

KIGER ENERGY MANUAL: ₹6,29,995 – ₹9,14,995 | EASY-R AMT: ₹7,59,995 – ₹8,69,995

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

NEW RELEASES

TATA MOTORS LAUNCHES ADVENTURE X PERSONA VARIANTS FOR HARRIER & SAFARI

Tata Motors has launched the new Adventure X Persona for its flagship SUVs, the Harrier and Safari. Priced at ₹18.99 lakh (Harrier) and ₹19.99 lakh (Safari Adventure X+), the edition combines adventure styling, performance upgrades and feature enhancements.

SKODA INDIA TO HOST EXCHANGE CARNIVAL

Skoda Auto India is hosting an August Exchange Carnival with free evaluations, exchange bonuses, and spot booking benefits across its showrooms. Mega exchange events will also be held in Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru and Pune.

TVS MOTOR UNVEILS ORBITER ELECTRIC SCOOTER

TVS Motor has unveiled the TVS Orbiter electric scooter, featuring a 158 km IDC range, cruise control, 34-litre boot, hill-hold assist and connected tech. With a 14" front wheel and a price tag of ₹99,900 (ex-showroom, incl. PM e-Drive benefits in Bengaluru and Delhi), it promises comfort and performance.

CITROEN ROLLS OUT C3X & BASALT X RANGE

Citroen has rolled out the new C3X range with 15 added features, starting at ₹5.25 lakh. Deliveries begin early September. The company has also opened pre-bookings for the Basalt X Range for ₹11,000 at dealerships and online.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GEETHA A V B** D/o **BASAVARAJAPPA** R/at No. 23, Kodalasangama Layout, Near Nice Road, Kodigehalli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to **GEETHA B** vide affidavit dated: 30/8/2025 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SURENDAR JANGID,** S/o Govind Ram, R/at No. 18, T S Lane, Cottonpet Cross, Akkipet, Bengaluru-560 053 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SURENDAR G** to **SURENDAR JANGID,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SURENDAR JANGID** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28th August 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. **SHEILA KRISHNAMURTHY** w/o Pidatala Ram Mohan, aged 75 years, residing at # 28, Museum road, Bangalore 560 001. my correct name is **SHEILA MOHAN,** my Pan Card bearing number AIEPM2887M record my name as **"SHEILA MOHAN".** I submit that any reference to the name **"SHEILA MOHAN"** or **"SHEILA KRISHNAMURTHY"** are one and the same and refer to me only. Vide Affidavit dt.28/08/2025 sworn to before **Fahim Unnisa** Notary at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No. JC414976H, Rank : Nb Sub **MAHAVEER PRASAD YADAV,** Father of : **Jivesh Yadav,** Resident of Punchhalawali, Godawas, Sikar, Rajasthan - 332713, presently residing at PRTC, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 006, do hereby declare that, I have changed my son's name from **JIVESH CHITOSHIYA** to **JIVESH YADAV** vide affidavit dated 25.08.2025 sworn to before R. Basavaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **M. Prasanna Kumar**, S/o. Late Maddappa, aged about 49 years, residing at No. 196, Sevantige Marg, Karishma Hills, Gubbalala, Bengaluru-560011, do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter name from **Gahana Prasanna Kumar** to **Anvitha .P**, vide affidavit dated 23.08.2025, sworn to before R. Sulakshana, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ABDUL LATEEF, Residing at No. 177-1, Anekeri Bidi, Melukote, Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya Dist, Karnataka -571431, have changed my name to MOHAMMED HUSSAIN ABDUL LATHEEF** vide affidavit dated: 11.08.2025 before notary CHANDRAKALA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ADITHYA HUNSUR VIDYA PRAKASH,** Aged about 29 years, S/o **Vidya Prakash.H.S,** residing at No.46, 1st B Cross, Manjunatha Layout, Chikkadevasandra Main Road, KR Pura, Bangalore-560036. Have changed my Son's name from **AAVARTHA HUNSUR VIDYA PRAKASH** to **AAVARTHA VASISHTA** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 12 July 2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary **R.S.Vijay,** Bengaluru-560043.

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I R KARTHIK S/o R Rajashekar would like to inform the General Public that I have lost/misplaced my original Transfer Certificate on 09/07/25 near Austin Town Layout. Registered a Lost Report No 1771661/2025 dt 27/08/2025. If anyone finds the document, please contact R Karthik Mob No.9448620622.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S ANIL,** S/o Shri VO Sreenivasan, R/at "SRUTHI", Thottada Kannur-670007, Kerala State, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **S ANIL** and **ANIL SREENIVASAN** are one and the same and refers to me only, now I have changed my name from **S ANIL** to **ANIL SREENIVASAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ANIL SREENIVASAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 26th August 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DIWAKAR .N KAGAWAD** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAJAT JAIN,** S/o Rakesh Jain, R/at No. 624, 5th Main, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAJAT R JAIN** to **RAJAT JAIN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAJAT JAIN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28th August 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRIYANSHI TRIPATHI D/o Rajesh Kumar Tripathi, residing at No. A-1305, Pragathi Amber. Kammasandra Main Road, Ananth Nagar, Electronic City Phase-2, VTC: Kammasandra, Po.: Electronic City, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) PRIYANSHI to (NEW NAME) PRIYANSHI TRIPATHI** Vide Affidavit Dated 30.08.2025 sworn before Notary B.Chitra, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **P K Bhagya ChandraShekar,** W/o. T C ChandraShekar, aged about 48 years, resident of #27 Brindavana Nilaya, SRS Main Road, Near K E B Office, Peenya 1st Stage, Bangalore-560058, do hereby declare that **P K Bhagya ChandraShekar** and the **P K Bhagya** is the name of the same person and that is myself and now I have changed my name to **PK Bhagya** on 14.08.2025, vide affidavit dated 14.08.2025, sworn to before Gangaraju, Advocate &Notary Public Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SANGEETA SRIKANTH CHARI,** aged about 18 years, D/o. Srikanth Gopalan, No. 17, Mahika Mansion Arasappa Layout, Near Udaya Timbers, Tataguni, Bengaluru-560082, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SANCHITA SRIKANTH** to **SANGEETA SRIKANTH CHARI,** vide affidavit dated 30.08.2025, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohammad Shihaab S/o. Mohammed sadiq , residing at No. 41, Harris Road Benson Town, Bangalore -560046 have changed my name to **MOHAMMED SHIHAAB** for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated: 30-08-2025, Sworn to before Notary Public L. Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAN SUBRAMANIYAM T.V., Son of late Thota venkataswamy, residing at No.143, Sri Gururaghavendra Krupa, 1st Main, 2nd Stage, Sri Varadarajaswamy Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru 560097 state that my name mentioned in SSLC marks card as **Mohan Subramaniyam T.V.** and in passport No.T336323 mentioned as **Thota Venkataswamy Mohan Subramaniyam,** hence this affidavit dated 28 August 2025 sworn before Notary G.S. Shivaprakash Rao at Chintamani to change my name to **THOTA VENKATASWAMY MOHAN.**

Change of Name/ Date of Birth

I, P. M Kushalappa, Ex-Navy no. 83706T, RANK P.O residing at 25/4, near Gandhi Mantapa, Madikeri town affirmly state that I have legally married Smt. M. M. Kalamma on 16 May 1976. In my service records, my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as P. K. Bollavva. Herein after my wife's name will be M. M. Kalamma & her D.O.B 22.05.1949 and not 15.05.1952 as mentioned in the affidavit date 22.08.2025 sworn before notary P. Pundarika, Madikeri, Kodagu District.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mr. MANSOOR AYAZ,** S/o Abdul Khaleel, age 51 years, R/at No. 29, Anjaneya Temple Street, Near Anjaneya Temple, J C Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560 006 do hereby declare that my daughter's correct name is **JUVERIA KONAIN,** but in her school records her name is wrongly mentioned as **JUVERIYA KONIAN** instead of **JUVERIA KONAIN,** vide affidavit dated 30th August 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **LEELA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DIVYA LAKSHMI VIJAYAN,** aged about 46 years, W/o Rahul Goel, R/at Villa BW 09, 77 Place East Project, Yemlur Main Road, Bengaluru-560 037 have changed my name to **DIVYA GOEL**, vide affidavit dated 30/08/2025, before Notary **MEER HASSAN,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAHBAZ PASHA S Aged about 27 years S/o ABDUL SUBHAN, Residing at #86. 16th cross, 7th main road Padarayanapura Bengaluru south Government electric factory post Bengaluru - 560026, have changed my name from **SHABAZ PASHA** to **SHAHBAZ PASHA S,** vide affidavit dated 28/8/2025 sworn to before Deepa M Advocate and Notary Public Govt. Of India Bengaluru for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AKBARI NAAZ** W/o. Javeed Ahmed, aged about 56 years, residing at No. #41, 6th Main, 8th Cross, Balaji Layout, A H Store, Kodigehalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore Karnataka-560094, do hereby declare that **AKBARI NAAZ AHEMED** and **AKBARI NAAZ** refer to the same person i.e., myself, and now I have changed my name from **AKBARI NAAZ AHEMED** to **AKBARI NAAZ,** vide affidavit dated 29.08.2025, sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAMYUKTHA SRIKANTH CHARI,** aged about 18 years, D/o. Srikanth Gopalan, No. 17, Mahika Mansion Arasappa Layout, Near Udaya Timbers, Tataguni, Bengaluru-560082, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SAHANA SRIKANTH** to **SAMYUKTHA SRIKANTH CHARI,** vide affidavit dated 30.08.2025, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sri. B R ANAND KUMAR, Aged about 50 years, S/o. Beerappa, R/at. #98, Bilishivale, Bangalore North, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka -560077, have changed my daughter's name from **THANVI KRISHNA A to THAANVI B ANAND** vide Affidavit Dated: 29-08-2025, Sworn to before Notary Public D. RAJANNA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Vineetha W/O J.Vishwanatha**, aged about 52 years, Residence at, Ganesh Nivas, 11/1 Gannigerepalya, Krishnamurthy Layout, near Shoba forest view, hundred feet Road, Kanakpura road, Bengaluru-560109.

I have changed my name from **"Laxmi Raghavendra Acharya"** to **"Vineetha"** hereafter in all records, deeds, documents Etc., subscribe the said name of Vineetha as my name in lieu of the said name Laxmi Raghavendra Acharya. Vide Affidavit dt.28/08/2025 sworn to before S. JAYANNA Notary at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mr. GIRISH KURUVANGI JEEVARATHNE,** S/o Jeevarathne Gowda, age 51 years, R/at NO. 54/82, 4th Cross, Jaimaruthi Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **GIRISHA KURUVANGI JEEVARATNE** and **GIRISH KURUVANGI JEEVARATHNE** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **GIRISH KURUVANGI JEEVARATHNE** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 22-08-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D.G. SHANTHAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAUD AHMED ABDUL AZEEZ,** S/o Iqbal Ahmed, aged about 42 years, R/at No. 16/7, BHL Officers Layout, Near Makha Masjid, SRK Garden, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 041 have changed my name to **SAUD AHMED,** vide affidavit dated 30/08/2025, before Notary **GANGARAJU .B.N,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Smt. Kavitha K.G, Wife of Shivananje Gowda, aged about 40 years, residing at No. 826, Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swamy Nilaya, 9th Main Road, Jnana Jyothi Nagar, Jnanabharathi, Bangalore 560056, I declare that **K.G. Kavitha, Kavitha K.G.** and **Kavitha Shivananje Gowda,** refer to one and the same person, which is myself. I therefore request that my name be read and treated as **Kavitha Shivananje Gowda** for all purpose's hereafter., vide affidavit dated 4/8/2025 sworn to before B Chitra Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PARINITA BHAT,** D/o. Usha Bhat, aged about 22 years, residing at No. 18, 8th Cross, Veerasagar Road, Muneshwara Layout, 2nd Phase Attur, Yelahanaka, Bangalore-560064, do hereby declare that I have changed my **PARINITA** to **PARINITA BHAT,** vide affidavit dated 21.08.2025, sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAMANASU MARY. R** (New Name) previously called **SAMANASU MARY** (Old Name) W/o. H. Rayappa, resident of #124, Opp. Jesus Cross, Silvepura, Silvepura Post, Bangalore-560 090. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'SAMANASU MARY'** to **"SAMANASU MARY.R",** vide Affidavit dated 29.08.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary R. Basavaraja, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sri. B R ANAND KUMAR, Aged about 50 years, S/o. Beerappa, R/at. #98, Bilishivale, Bangalore North, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka -560077, have changed my son's name from **VIDEEP SURYA to SAATHVIK B ANAND** vide Affidavit Dated: 29-08-2025, Sworn to before Notary Public D. RAJANNA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AMARAVATHI BAI,** W/o Ganathe Gopala Krishna Rao, R/at EWS 340, New Kantharaj Urs Road, Kuvempunagar, Mysore-570023 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **AMARAVATHI BAI GANATHE** to **AMARAVATHI BAI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AMARAVATHI BAI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30th August 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARUNA,** W/o B.S. Reddappa, aged about 62 years, residing at # B 104, Hosakerehalli Main Road, Koncept Nest, Byatarayanapura, Government Electric Factory, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560 026 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ARUNA REDDAPPA** to **ARUNA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARUNA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30.08.2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NITESH KANADE (old name) S/o. NITYANANDA KANADE, date of Birth: 03-06-1993, residing at No.1259, 10th Main Road, Opposite Church, VTC: Vijayanagar, PO: Vijayanagar, Sub District : Bangalore North, District: Bengaluru, State: Karnataka, PIN Code: 560 040, have changed my name from **NITESH KANADE** to **NITESH NITYANANDA KANADE** vide affidavit dated 30.08.2025, sworn to before DEEPA.M, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CHANDU K.M**, S/o. K.N. Manjunatha, age 24 years, residing at No. 21, Near Srinidhi Factory, Kadugodi Plantation, Bengaluru-560067, I have changed my name from **CHANDU K.M.** to **ARYA M. REDDY,** vide affidavit dated 29.08.2025, sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **M. M E ARUL** , S/o. N. MURTHY, aged about 61 years, R/at No. 85, Venkateshwara Colony, Kempamma Devi Road, 2nd Road, New Thippasandra, Bangaore-560 075. Hereby declare that, **"ARUL VISVASAM, MARK EDWARD ARUL, ARUL** and **M. M E ARUL"** names are one and the same & it refers to me only, hereinafter i will be called and known as **"M. M E ARUL"** only. Vide Affidavit dated 18.11.2006, Sworn before Advocate and Notary S. Narayana, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sri. B R ANAND KUMAR, Aged about 50 years, S/o. Beerappa, R/at. #98, Bilishivale, Bangalore North, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka -560077, have changed my daughter's name from **CHAITHANYA KRISHNA S A to CHAITANYAA B ANAND** vide Affidavit Dated: 29-08-2025, Sworn to before Notary Public D. RAJANNA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JITENDRA KUMAR RAJPUROHIT,** S/o Kishore Singh, R/at No. 3 Akki Mane Akkamaha Devi Road, Bengaluru-560 053 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JITENDRA KUMAR** to **JITENDRA KUMAR RAJPUROHIT,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **JITENDRA KUMAR RAJPUROHIT** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30th August 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mythili Nagapan, aged about 42 years, daughter of Arumugam R., residing at No. C-501, 6th Cross Street, Kaggadasapura, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560093, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Mythili Nagapan** to **Mythili A,** vide affidavit dated 22.08.2025, sworn to before B. Hanumantharaya, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **M. Prasanna Kumar**, S/o. Late Maddappa, aged about 49 years, residing at No. 196, Sevantige Marg, Karishma Hills, Gubbalala, Bengaluru-560011, do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter name from **Nakshtra Prasanna** to **Nithu Shree .P**, vide affidavit dated 23.08.2025, sworn to before R. Sulakshana, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAGHAVENDRA J,** S/o Jayaram. K, Aged about 48 years, residing at No. 944/24, 6th Cross, BSK 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560 050. Hereby declare that, I have changed my minor Daughter's (15 years) name from **'TRUPTI ASHOK'** to **"TRUPTI",** vide Affidavit dated 30.08.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Puttaramaiah, Bangalore.

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ELUMALE IS MY WAY OF SHOWING THAT REALITY IS MORE THRILLING THAN FICTION: PUNIT RANGASWAMY

From stories and lyrics to direction, Punit Rangaswamy on Elumale, Tharun Sudhir's support, and more

A SHARADHAA

EVERY person stepping into the world of cinema dreams of leaving a mark in one form or another. For lyricist-turned-filmmaker Punit Rangaswamy, it was always about leaving a legacy of words. "I wanted my writing to be spoken about, to be remembered. Unfortunately, my lyrics or story ideas did not convince the directors I worked with. That's when I realised, if the director is the decision-maker when it comes to writing, why not become one myself? That thought became the seed for direction," recalls Punit, who makes his directorial debut with *Elumale*, which sees its release this week.

Before this point of reckoning, Punit spent years behind the screen. He worked with Tharun Kishore Sudhir for three years as lyricist and writer, and was part of the writing and direction department for *Kaatera* for nearly two years. He also collaborated with Guru Deshpande on multiple occasions. "Tharun gave me the best encouragement. When *Elumale* did not match his directorial profile, he entrusted me with that responsibility. He judged rightly and made me the captain of the project," says Punit.

While some believe writing and direction are two completely different skillsets, Punit is convinced that they are two sides of the same coin. "Writing and direction are mutual. Every good director should be a good writer. That's the fact. I never went to a school to learn filmmaking. For me, the content drives everything, right from shot division and camera movements to music and filmmaking choices. When I tell a story, it has to be from my point of view, my vision."

> *My story did not demand stars. For me, either the director, the producer, or the actors should be the driving force to reach the audience. In Elumale's case, the production house became that force*
> - Punit Rangaswamy, director

Hailing from Mandya, Punit has always believed in the power of stories rooted in reality, and *Elumale* is no exception. "It is based on a real incident. I feel every subject should have that touch of reality. Otherwise, it becomes lifeless. For *Elumale*, I researched newspapers spanning a three-year period around the 2004 timeline to get the facts right. Reality, when researched properly, can be more thrilling than fiction," he shares.

Elumale is set in 2004, against the politically and emotionally charged backdrop of former Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalithaa's tenure, the Cauvery water dispute, and the turbulent times of forest brigand Veerappan. At its heart lies a cross-border romance between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. "I was in college in 2004. Being from that region, I saw and lived through many of those moments; the protests, the college closures, the kidnapping of Dr Rajkumar, and eventually Veerappan's death. At Mysuru University, we also had students from Tamil Nadu, which gave me familiarity with their lifestyle. All this helped me shape the story," explains Punit.

For his debut, Punit has opted for relative newcomers Raanna and Priyanka Kumar Achar in the lead roles. "My story did not demand stars. For me, either the director, the producer, or the actors should be the driving force to reach the audience. In *Elumale*'s case, the production house became that force, and Tharun Kishore Sudhir gave the film the right push, with Atlanta Nagendra joining him as producer," says Punit.

The film, however, is not short on experienced talent. The cast includes Jagapathi Babu, Kishore, and TS Nagabharana, while the technical crew boasts of heavyweights like D Imman for music, Advaita Gurumurthy as cinematographer, KM Prakash as editor, and Uday (sound designer of *Visaranai* and *Viduthalai*) for sound. Colourist Raju Reddy, who worked on *Pushpa*, is also part of the project. "I am the only newcomer here. Everyone else brought their immense experience and gave more than I expected," he beams.

A large portion of *Elumale* unfolds at night, which brings its own share of hurdles. "Night has its own world, its own texture, silence, and even its own kind of fear. Capturing that realistically was a challenge. For me, sound was as important as the visuals. We put a lot of detail into it. The night sequences became the most unique experience of making this film," Punit reflects.

Releasing in Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu, *Elumale* is pitched as a rooted story with universal appeal. "The term 'Pan-India' is often misused. For me, if a story is strong, it will connect with audiences everywhere. A real-based incident is the biggest connector as it goes beyond language. *Elumale* will travel across borders, much like the love story at its core. I strongly believe audiences will see value for their ticket money and leave with double the satisfaction," signs off Punit.

CE FEATURES

Gauthami Jadhav to make her film debut opposite Rishi in *Mangalapuram*

Abhimanyu Kashinath, Ranjith Raj Suvarna, Gawthami Jadhav and Rishi

RISHI, the actor known for films like *Operation Alamelamma* and *Kavaludaari*, has always surprised audiences with his choice of roles. He now steps into the intriguing world of *Mangalapuram*, a mysterious coastal-town story that also features Abhimanyu Kashinath, son of the late icon Kashinath, in a prominent role.

The film also marks the Kannada debut of director Ranjith Raj Suvarna, who previously helmed acclaimed Tulu films. Backed by producers Vidwan Prasanna Tantri and Ram Prasad under the banner Varahi Creations, *Mangalapuram* promises a distinctive mix of cast and crew both on and off screen.

A grand muhurath ceremony was held at Moodbidri recently, attended by the entire team. Dr Mohan Alva, chairman of Alva's Education Foundation, gave the first clap to signal the start of filming.

Adding a fresh layer to the project is Gauthami Jadhav, who carved her space on television and gained visibility through Bigg Boss Kannada. She now makes her film debut opposite Rishi, with the two coming together for the first time in what looks like a refreshing pairing.

Adding intrigue behind the scenes, Gauthami's husband, Abhishek Kasargod, serves as the film's cinematographer.

The ensemble also includes seasoned artists like Vidyadhar Biradar, Deepak Rai Panaje, Devraj Kapikad, and several actors from the coastal belt. Music is composed by Anoop Seelin, known for blending melody with mood.

Set against the backdrop of a small town, *Mangalapuram* unfolds as a murder mystery woven with faith, superstition, and unexplained miracles. Shot across Karkala, Thirthahalli, Madikeri, and Bengaluru, the film aims to bring alive both the rustic flavour of the coast and the suspense of a whodunit.

A SHARADHAA

A legal suspense thriller where truth plays hide and seek

RATING 3/5

SHODHA

Director: Sunil Mysore

Cast: Pawan Kumar Siri Ravikumar, Arun Sagar, Anusha Ranganath, Diya Hegde, Ravi Hunsur, Saptami Gowda, and Shwetha Prasad

Streaming on: Zee 5

MOST thrillers chase blood on the floor; *Shodha* finds its tension in a chair, a table, and a man who treats the interrogation room as both a battlefield and a stage. What begins as a simple report of a missing wife, gradually transforms into a puzzle of half-truths, shifting identities, and buried secrets. The central question seems straightforward: Where is Meera? Yet every time the police close in on an answer, her husband Rohit (Pawan Kumar) turns the case inside out, converting interrogation into performance.

The hook in this six-episode series is deceptively ordinary. On Meera's birthday, a cake waits on the table, but she is nowhere to be found. From that absence, the show builds a mystery through contradictory testimonies, altered wedding albums, and whispers of surrogacy. At the centre sits Rohit — a lawyer accused of his wife's disappearance, but also a man sharp enough to defend himself with every word. He is never only a grieving husband, nor merely a calculating manipulator. Instead, he shifts between roles, sometimes within the same scene. His slipperiness keeps the officers — and us — constantly unsettled. Siri Ravikumar's sharp presence only heightens this uncertainty, adding fresh layers of doubt to an already fractured reality.

While Rohit drives the narrative, *Shodha* draws strength from its ensemble. Arun Sagar lends measured gravitas as the inspector, a man trained to slice through fog but repeatedly snared in Rohit's wordplay. His investigation is less about chasing evidence and more about engaging in a duel of wits. Siri Ravikumar crackles with energy, the fire to the inspector's calm, her persistence ensuring the case never drifts into monotony. Anusha Ranganath, as Rohit's sister-in-law, brings a simmering unease that tightens the noose of suspicion and lends emotional heft. Even Shwetha Prasad, in her brief appearance, registers like an afterimage.

Diya Hegde as Tara, Rohit's daughter, adds another texture altogether. Her innocence stands in stark contrast to the adult world of deception. In one striking sequence, her school play about a Kodava warrior, intercut with glimpses of Saptami Gowda, functions as a haunting mirror to the larger conflict. Through Tara's perspective, we are reminded that lies don't just corrode marriages, but they bleed into childhoods, staining innocence with suspicion.

Director Sunil Mysuru, working with Suhas Navarathna's screenplay, and script-doctoring by Pawan Kumar himself, paces the mystery with a steady hand. The story is structured like a relay of suspicion, with the spotlight shifting from Rohit to Meera, to the daughter, to the sister-in-law, and inevitably back to the police. Rain-slicked streets and shadowed corners of the town amplify the tension, as if the place itself were conspiring to conceal the truth.

But *Shodha* shines brightest inside the interrogation chamber. The police station becomes less a workplace and more a courtroom. Every word is weaponised, every pause deliberate, every shrug a counter-argument. Rohit's legal acrobatics force officers to abandon procedure and engage in psychological warfare. These exchanges blur the line between confession and performance, law and justice, truth and illusion.

The narrative isn't without blemishes. The diversion into identity games occasionally dilutes the intensity. Some twists, though clever, verge on predictability, and the bond between Rohit and Meera could have carried more emotional weight. At times, *Shodha* feels more invested in trickery than in exposing the fragile humanity beneath.

Yet the series lingers because it probes questions beyond guilt. Can a man be a terrible husband but still a devoted father? Is closure genuine, or just another illusion staged for peace of mind? Is justice itself a performance, and a story stitched together for order rather than truth? *Shodha* refuses neat answers, but it ensures the journey stays gripping.

With Pawan Kumar's unpredictable turn at its core, grounded support from Arun Sagar and Siri Ravikumar, Anusha Ranganath's simmering presence, the spectral shadow of Shwetha Prasad's Meera, Saptami Gowda's striking interludes, and young Diya Hegde bridging the emotional thread, *Shodha* transforms a missing-person case into a theatre of memory, law, and manipulation. At its best, it doesn't just narrate a crime — it conducts a trial before our eyes.

A SHARADHAA

AN OVERSTRETCHED REEL OF DREAMS AND STRUGGLES

RATING 2.5/5

ANDONDITTU KAALA

Director: Keerthi Krishnappa

Cast: Vinay Rajkumar, V Ravichandran, Aditi Prabhudeva, Nisha Ravikrishnan, Aruna Balraj, Jagappa, and Kaddipudi Chandru

CINEMA has often mirrored the ambitions of its makers, but *Andontittu Kaala* dares to place the director himself at the heart of the narrative. Keerthi Krishnappa, emerging from modest beginnings, avoids flamboyant flourishes and instead scripts an intimate journey that treads between childhood aspiration and the unrelenting pull of cinema. Brought alive through Kumar (Vinay Rajkumar), the film unfolds like an emotional diary—moving from a rustic childhood to the chaotic allure of Bengaluru — before finally arriving at the stage of recognition.

The opening passages are steeped in the raw flavours of village life with playful pranks, schoolyard mischief, and the rustic thrill of watching films in a tent for a single rupee. For young Kumar, cinema is more than entertainment; it is survival, language, and destiny. Keerthi Krishna leans into nostalgia by showcasing the screening of *Nagarahaavu* and other classics, the awe for Puttanna Kanagal, the child's realisation of "cut" and "action." These stretches drip with sentiment but mercifully avoid slipping into melodrama.

What grounds *Andontittu Kaala* is its honesty. Kumar is no wide-eyed dreamer chasing quick fame. Instead, he reflects the resilience of countless strugglers who arrive in Bengaluru to carve out a place in cinema. The tonal shift is immediate, and the warmth of village innocence gives way to the city's unforgiving chaos. Kumar's purse is stolen on his very first day, leaving him stranded. From then on, persistence defines him, even as the film questions whether raw talent can ever survive in an industry built on hierarchy and servitude. One of its sharpest lines lands effectively: "Cinema doesn't ask for good people, it asks for good workers."

The supporting ensemble adds heft, especially his loyal friends, a father who reels films in a tent, and a mother whose dream is to sit in a car. These small desires form the drama's strongest anchors. Kumar's encounters with love, first as a youthful infatuation and later as a companionship with Vasundhara (Aditi Prabhudeva), add tenderness, though the romance feels undernourished. Vasundhara, despite Aditi's spirited presence, remains more muse than character.

Vinay Rajkumar shoulders the film with sincerity, bringing dignity to Kumar's setbacks without ever resorting to self-pity. His attempt to age through the phases of Kumar's life adds believability. Yet, the script frequently indulges itself, over-reliant on flashbacks and montages that test patience. The wider supporting cast lends credibility but too often fades into the background of Kumar's singular struggle.

Keerthi Krishnappa thrives in capturing details; the first clapboard, the frenzy of black tickets, the echo of "Super" after a release. The film-within-a-film device adds a meta charm but also weighs down the pacing. By the time the story circles back to Kumar's roots, Andontitu Kaala feels less like a neat arc and more like a winding road filled with bruises, fleeting victories, and stubborn hope. The final act, featuring Ravichandran in a pivotal moment, strikes an emotional chord but also reminds us of the film's indulgent leanings. In trying to be a universal story of aspiration, it often feels too tethered to the director's personal nostalgia.

Ultimately, *Andontittu Kaala* is not about whether Kumar becomes a director, but about the cost of holding onto a dream when compromise lurks at every corner. The film lingers on the fragile yet transformative power of childhood fascination. Yet in its attempt to be both memoir and universal statement, it never fully balances the two. Many aspirants may see themselves in Kumar, but they may also wish the storytelling was as uncompromising as the dream itself.